

**SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2022**  
**4th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Ven. Anthony of the Kiev Caves:**  
**Founder of Monasticism in Rus'**

Saint Anthony of the Kiev Caves was born in the year 983 at Liubech, not far from Chernigov, and was named Antipas in Baptism. Possessing the fear of God from his youth, he desired to be clothed in the monastic schema. When he reached a mature age, he wandered until he arrived on Mt. Athos, burning with the desire to emulate the deeds of its holy inhabitants. Here he received monastic tonsure, and the young monk pleased God in every aspect of his spiritual struggles on the path of virtue. He particularly excelled in humility and obedience, so that all the monks rejoiced to see his holy life.

The igumen saw in Saint Anthony the great future ascetic, and inspired by God, he sent him back to his native land, saying, "Anthony, it is time for you to guide others in holiness. Return to your own Russian land, and be an example for others. May the blessing of the Holy Mountain be with you."

Returning to the land of Rus, Anthony began to make the rounds of the monasteries about Kiev, but nowhere did he find that strict life which had drawn him to Mt. Athos.

Through the Providence of God, Anthony came to the hills of Kiev by the banks of the River Dnieper. The forested area near the village of Berestovo reminded him of his beloved Athos. There he found a cave which had been dug out by the Priest Hilarion, who later became Metropolitan of Kiev (October 21). Since he liked the spot, Anthony prayed with tears, "Lord, let the blessing of Mt. Athos be upon this spot, and strengthen me to remain here." He began to struggle in prayer, fasting, vigil and physical labor. Every other day, or every third day, he would eat only dry bread and a little water. Sometimes he did not eat for a week. People began to come to the ascetic for his blessing and counsel, and some decided to remain with the saint.

Among Anthony's first disciples was Saint Nikon (March 23), who tonsured Saint Theodosius of the Caves (May 3) at the monastery in the year 1032.

The virtuous life of Saint Anthony illumined the Russian land with the beauty of monasticism. Saint Anthony lovingly received those who yearned for the monastic life. After instructing them how to follow Christ, he asked Saint Nikon to tonsure them. When twelve disciples had gathered about Saint Anthony, the brethren dug a large cave and built a church and cells for the monks within it.

After he appointed Abbot Barlaam to guide the brethren, Saint Anthony withdrew from the monastery. He dug a new cave for himself, then hid himself within it. There too, monks began to settle around him. Afterwards, the saint built a small wooden church in honor of the Dormition of the Mother of God over the Far Caves.

At the insistence of Prince Izyaslav, the igumen Barlaam withdrew to the Dimitriev monastery. With the blessing of Saint Anthony and with the general agreement of the brethren, the meek and humble Theodosius was chosen as igumen. By this time, the number of brethren had already reached a hundred men. The Kiev Great Prince Izyaslav (+ 1078) gave the monks the hill on which the large church and cells were built, with a palisade all around. Thus, the renowned monastery over the caves was established. Describing this, the chronicler remarks that while many monasteries were built by emperors and nobles, they could not compare with those which are built with holy prayers and tears, and by fasting and vigil. Although Saint Anthony had no gold, he built a monastery which became the first spiritual center of Rus.

For his holiness of life, God glorified Saint Anthony with the gift of clairvoyance and wonderworking. One example of this occurred during the construction of the Great Caves church. The Most Holy Theotokos Herself stood before him and Saint Theodosius in the Blachernae church in Constantinople, where they had been miraculously transported without leaving their own monastery. Actually, two angels appeared in Constantinople in their forms (See May 3, the account of the Kiev Caves Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos). Having received gold from the Mother of God, the saints commissioned master architects,

who came from Constantinople to the Russian land on the command of the Queen of Heaven to build the church at the Monastery of the Caves. During this appearance, the Mother of God foretold the impending death of Saint Anthony, which occurred on July 10, 1073.

Through Divine Providence, the relics of Saint Anthony remain hidden.

## GREAT VESPERS

***LORD I CALL: Four stichera of the Resurrection in tone 3 (spiral bound Vespers book), then ...***

### ***St. Anthony, tone 4:***

When divine desire fell upon you, O venerable one,  
you considered passionate attachments to the world to be harmful;  
therefore, you forsook your homeland and arrived on the Holy Moun-  
tain.

There, in the midst of the Fathers, O Anthony,  
you shone forth in virtue like a beacon.  
Entreat Christ, Whom you have served from your youth,//  
that He save and enlighten our souls!

When you were set afire by the love of Christ, O venerable one,  
you despised the wisdom and glory of this world as things that pass  
away.

Therefore, you made a cave for yourself,  
and in it you struggled like an incorporeal being.  
As a result you were granted from on high the honors of the bodiless  
ones.

Standing with them before the throne of Christ,//  
pray that He save and enlighten our souls!

When you received divine love in your heart, O father,  
you entered a dark cave as though it were an all-splendid bridal cham-  
ber,

and there you were enriched with the understanding of ineffable  
things,

to behold the things of the future as though they were present,  
which you then explained to all.

Entreat Christ, Whom you have served from your youth,//  
that He save and enlighten our souls!

### ***St. Anthony, tone 5:***

O venerable Father Anthony,  
you illumined your mind with the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
and with foresight you prophetically predicted the wrath of God  
that would fall upon the Orthodox.  
Therefore, you entrusted to Simon the defense against the enemies,  
and before the construction of the church you foretold that he would be  
laid to rest therein.

Therefore, we praise you as a mediator of good things for all,//  
and ask that through you we may receive great mercy from God.

O venerable Father Anthony,  
you fulfilled the commandments of Christ, the true Shepherd and  
Teacher,  
and showed forth love even after your departure.  
By your prayers you transformed the deadly illness of the slothful  
Erasmus,  
giving him time for repentance,  
and guiding others to chastity.//  
Entreat Christ that our souls may be saved!

O venerable Father Anthony,  
with God's help you steered the ship of your mind with chastity,  
and safely sailed across the passion-laden deep of the sea of this life.  
You attained the calm haven of Paradise,  
where the saints dwell and the righteous rest.//  
We beseech you to pray with them that we may also obtain rest  
therein.

### ***Glory ... St. Anthony tone 6:***

Your way of life and your labors for God were difficult, as the fathers of the Holy Mountain learned. Therefore, in accordance with God's providence, they sent you back to your homeland, saying: "Go, child, that through you God may be known there by those who did not know Him!"

When you arrived, you enlightened your native land and became a leader, bringing a multitude of monastics to Christ. Therefore, pray that we who celebrate your falling-asleep may be preserved unharmed by the Enemy,// and that our souls may be saved!

*now and ever ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 3 (spiral bound Vespers book)*

### **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

**Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9.** But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

**Wisdom of Solomon 5:15-6:3.** But the righteous live for ever, and their reward is with the Lord; the Most High takes care of them. Therefore they will receive a glorious crown and a beautiful diadem from the hand of the Lord, because with his right hand he will cover them, and with his arm he will shield them. The Lord will take his zeal as his

whole armor, and will arm all creation to repel his enemies; he will put on righteousness as a breastplate, and wear impartial justice as a helmet; he will take holiness as a invincible shield, and sharpen stern wrath for a sword, and creation will join with him to fight against the madmen. Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim, and will leap to the target as from a well-drawn bow of clouds, and hailstones full of wrath will be hurled as from a catapult; the water of the sea will rage against them, and rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them; a mighty wind will rise against them, and like a tempest it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste the whole earth, and evil-doing will overturn the thrones of rulers. Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High, who will search out your works and inquire into your plans.

**Wisdom of Solomon 4:7-15.** But the righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, nor measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

**APOSTICHA: All stichera of the Resurrection in tone 3 (spiral bound Vespers book)**

***Glory ... St. Anthony, tone 6:***

Wondrous is the influence and great the faith that you have acquired, O venerable Anthony, emulating the Prophet Elijah; for he drew down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice,

while you drew down fire from heaven by your supplications,  
to consume and cleanse the place where you desired to build the all-  
glorious temple of the Sovereign Lady and Theotokos.  
Therefore, blessing you as one who dwells with the venerable and em-  
ulates the Prophets,//  
we pray that you entreat Christ that our souls be saved.

*now and ever ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the Resurrec-  
tion in tone 6 (spiral bound Vespers book)*

### **TROPARIA**

#### **Resurrection, tone 3:**

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

#### **St. Anthony, tone 4:**

Having left the turmoil of the world,

you renounced the world to follow Christ in accordance with the Gos-  
pel.

Living a life equal to the Angels,

you reached the quiet haven of the Holy Mountain of Athos.

With the blessing of the Athonite fathers, you came to the hills of  
Kiev,

where you labored with love and illumined your homeland.

There you led a multitude of monastics to Christ

showing them the path that leads to the Kingdom of Heaven.//

Venerable Anthony, pray to Him that our souls may be saved!

#### **Resurrectional dismissal theotokion, tone 4:**

The mystery of all eternity,

unknown even by Angels,

through you, O Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:  
God incarnate by union without confusion.  
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,  
by which He resurrected the first-created man,//  
saving our souls from death.

### **Saint John of Damascus Orthodox Church**

Rector: Father Michael Anderson

16903 Espola Rd

Poway, CA 92064

Email: [powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org)

Office: 858-674-1931