

The 17th Day of January



Our Venerable and God-bearing Father among the Saints, Anthony the Great, Father of Monastics.

Small Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 4 stichera, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “When from the tree...”*

When, for the sake of thy love for Christ, /
Thou didst shut thyself up in a tomb, rejoicing, /
With great strength didst thou endure the temptations of the demons, /
And through prayer and grace didst thou ruin their wicked designs. /
Then the hosts of the assembled angels cried aloud: ///
Glory to Him who gave thee strength, O father Anthony. *(twice)*

Like a new Elijah didst thou shine forth, O father, /
With thy disciples, like Elisha, with thee; /
And when taken up into the air as in a chariot /
Thou didst leave them with a two-fold measure of grace. /
And now living in the Spirit thou dost rejoice together with them ///
As we celebrate with love thy holy festival, O blessed father Anthony

As did Moses, who saw God in the days of old,
Thou didst truly enter the realm of spiritual visions, /
And straightway beheld Him whom thou didst love, /
And thy face was illumined by His radiance divine /
To guide men to the mansions of salvation. /
Therefore we now come together rejoicing, /
And we cry aloud to thee, /
O blessed and divinely wise one, ///
Glory to Christ God who gave thee strength, O father Anthony.

Glory..., in Tone 3: *(The composition of Anatolius)*

O venerable father Anthony /
Thou didst perfect a life of suffering the extremes of cold and heat, /
Finding comfort in those places where none can go; /
And uniting to thyself a multitude of brethren in the wilderness /
There to destroy the fiery darts of the demons. /
And having transcended every virtue /
Thou makest thine abode now with the angels in the kingdom of heaven. ///
With them beseech Christ God to save our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion.

At the Aposticha, the stichera, in Tone 2: To the melody, “O House of Ephratha....”

While still an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes /
Thou wast revealed as a holy vessel — /
An abode of the all-Holy Spirit, ///
O God-bearing father Anthony

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Thou didst shame the deceits of wicked demons /
By revealing the glory of Christ /
Through the power of the Cross, ///
O holy father Anthony.

Verse: Blessèd is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

Like Elijah, thou was swept away /
On a chariot of fire /
And straightway taken to the Holy Trinity, ///
O blessèd Anthony, the glory of all the world.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion:

The choirs of heaven above sing with the choirs on earth below ///
And ceaselessly glorify thy most-pure giving birth, O Theotokos.

The Troparion of St. Anthony, in Tone 4:

Thou didst equal Elijah in his zeal, O father Anthony, /
And didst follow John the Baptist in his holy way of life. /
Thou didst attract many to the wilderness, /
And didst establish the world on the firm foundation of thy prayers. ///
Intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.

Glory..., now and ever.... Theotokion, in the same Tone:

The mystery of all eternity /
Unknown even by angels /
Through thee is revealed on earth, O Mother of God, /
God incarnate by union without confusion. /
For our sake He voluntarily endured the Cross, /
By it He resurrected the first-created Adam ///

And saved our souls from death.

Great Vespers

After the Introductory Psalm, “Blessèd is the man...,” the first Kathisma.

At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Called from on high...”*

When the love of God was kindled in thy heart /
Thou wast illumined by the light of the Spirit, /
And thy soul took flight toward thine eternal Love. /
Then through great acts of abstinence and solitude, /
Thou didst triumph over flesh and blood /
And transcending the world Thou didst unite thyself to Him. /
And thus having satisfied thy longing /
Thou didst shine forth with blessings ///
Enlightening our souls like a star, O father Anthony. (*thrice*)

Illumined by the grace of the Holy Spirit /
Thou didst break in pieces the bows and arrows of the demons /
And thy divine instruction made their malevolence plain to see, /
O thou lamp of divine radiance to monastics; /
The first and fairest adornment of the wilderness; /
O skilled physician of the sick, ///
And the supreme example of the virtuous life, O father Anthony. (*thrice*)

O venerable father Anthony, /
Thou wast pure of soul and heart and understanding; /
An angel on the earth, a heavenly man; /
A true teacher of chastity; /
And now thou abidest forever with thy Master, /
Offering Him constant praise together with the angels, martyrs, and all the saints. /
Deliver from all sin and danger those who celebrate thy holy memory, O blessed one. (*twice*)

Glory..., in Tone 6:

Having preserved intact the image in which thou wast created, O Anthony /
Thou didst establish thy mind as master over thy mortal passions; /
For by courageously defeating thy nature through fasting /
Thou didst strive to subjèct that which is lower to that which is higher, /
And to enslave the flesh to the spirit. /
Therefore, thou wast shown to be the greatest of monastics, O dweller in the
wilderness, /

The trainer of those who run the good race, and a most excellent example of virtue. /
And now, with perfected vision in the heavens, thou gazest in purity upon the Holy
Trinity, ///
Praying ceaselessly for those who honor thee with faith and love, O our father
Anthony.

Now and ever..., Dogmatic Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin? /
Who will not sing of thy most pure child-bearing? /
The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father, /
But from thee He was ineffably incarnate; /
God by nature, yet man for our sake; /
Not two persons, but one in two natures. /
Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessèd Lady ///
To have mercy on our souls.

Or Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.

The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.

Three Readings:

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (3:1-9):

^{3:1}The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. ²In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery, ³and their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace. ⁴For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. ⁵And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for Himself. ⁶As

gold in the furnace hath He tried them and received them as a burnt offering. ⁷And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. ⁸They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign forever. ⁹They that put their trust in Him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love shall abide with Him: for grace and mercy is to His saints, and He hath care for His elect.

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (5:15-6:3):

^{5:15}...The righteous live for evermore; their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the most

High. ¹⁶Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand; for with

His right hand shall He cover them, and with His arm shall He protect them. ¹⁷He shall take to him His zeal for complete armor and make the creation His weapon for revenge upon his enemies. ¹⁸He shall put on righteousness as a breastplate and indifferent judgment instead of a helmet. ¹⁹He shall take holiness for an invincible shield. ²⁰His severe wrath shall he sharpen for a sword, and the creation shall fight with him against the unwise. ²¹Then shall the right aiming thunderbolts go abroad; and from the clouds, as from a well drawn bow, and they shall fly to the mark. ²²And hailstones full of wrath shall be cast out

as a stone bow, and the water of the sea shall rage against them, and the floods shall cruelly drown them. ²³Yea, a mighty wind shall stand up against them, and like a storm shall blow them away; thus iniquity shall lay waste the whole earth, and ill dealing shall overthrow the thrones of the mighty. ^{6:1}Hear therefore, O ye kings, and understand; learn, ye that be judges of the ends of the earth. ²Give ear, ye that rule the people, and glory in the multitude of nations. ³For power is given to you of the Lord, and sovereignty from the Highest, who shall try your works, and search out your counsels.

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (4:7-15):

^{4:7} **T**he righteous man, though he die early yet shall he be at rest. ⁸For old age is not honored for length of time, nor is it measured by number of years; ⁹but wisdom is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. ¹⁰There was one who pleased God and was so beloved of Him, that while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. ¹²For the fascination of wickedness obscures that

which is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. ¹³Being so perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; ¹⁴for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore He took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. ¹⁵Yet this the peoples saw and did not understand, neither did they take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are upon His holy ones, and He hath care for His elect.

At the Litya, the sticheron of the temple, and these of the Saint, in Tone 2: (The composition of the Studite)

Thy God-pleasing life is known to all /

O venerable father Anthony: /

For thou didst erect a divine and honorable ladder leading to heaven /

By establishing a school for the training of monastics here on earth; /

And by the torrent of thy tears thou didst drown the assaults of the passions; /

Thou didst show forth the fruits of godliness by healing those who cry out to thee in faith; /

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Rejoice, O golden-rayed star of the East;
Rejoice, O luminary and shepherd of monastics; /
Rejoice, O celebrated offspring of the desert and unshaken foundation of the Church; /
Rejoice, O great instructor of those who have gone astray; ///
Rejoice, O glorious boast and radiant joy of all the earth!

Let us honor our father Anthony /
An angel on the earth and man of God in heaven, /
The adornment of the world, the delight of all that are good and virtuous, /
The boast of all ascetics; /
For being planted in the house of God, he blossomed forth in goodness /
Becoming like a cedar growing in the wilderness; /
And he increased the flock of Christ's rational sheep ///
Living a life of holiness and righteousness.

O venerable father Anthony, /
Inclined toward the ascetic life from thine early years, /
Thou didst fast, becoming the instrument of the Holy Spirit. /
Receiving the gift of working miracles, /
Thou didst teach thy people to spurn the fleeting things of this world, /
And now, being radiantly illumined with the ineffable light. ///
Enlighten our thoughts through thine intercessions, O father Anthony.

Glory..., in Tone 5:

Having listened to the voice of the Lord in the Gospel, /
Thou didst forsake the world /
Spurning the glory of the world and all its riches, /
Thou didst cry: Love ye God, and ye shall find eternal grace. /
Prefer nothing to His Love, that when He comes in glory /
Ye may find rest with all the saints. ///
By his prayers, O Christ, save and preserve our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

We bless thee, O Virgin Theotokos, /
For Christ, the Sun of righteousness /
Hath shone forth from thee ///
In His great mercy.

At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 5: To the melody, "Rejoice..."

Rejoice, O father Anthony! /

OUR VENERABLE FATHER ANTHONY THE GREAT

Thou hast joined the joyous ranks of angels on high, /
For having trained thyself in the virtues thou didst live an angelic life here on earth, /
Revealing thyself to be a pure and unblemished reflection /
Of the brilliant radiance of the Holy Spirit, /
And being thus illumined, thou didst behold things that were to come, O blessed one, /
Foretelling all, being instructed by the manifestation of the divine Light of Christ. ///
Entreat Him now that He may grant our souls great mercy.

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Rejoice, O prince and invincible champion of ascetics and monks, /
For by withstanding the unbearable assaults of the demons, /
Thou didst courageously cut down the passions at their root /
Revealing to all the impotence of their soul-destroying deceit. /
Thou didst raise high the Cross of the Savior and make manifest its invincible power /
And being girded with its strength, thou didst vanquish those who rejected the
coming of Christ in the flesh ///
Entreat Him now that He may grant our souls great mercy.

Verse: Blessèd is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His
commandments.

Standing as a shining pillar of virtue /
Thou didst cast thy light upon all striving in the wilderness /
Showing the path from earth to heaven to those who now gaze upon God. /
Mystically emulating Moses, thou didst part the Red Sea of passions with
the staff of the Cross; /
Thou didst defeat the threat of Amalek; /
Thou didst find a straight path leading the way to heaven, O blessed one. /
Standing now joyfully, together with the angels before the throne of Christ, ///
Entreat Him that He may grant our souls great mercy.

Glory..., in Tone 8:

We honor thee as the instructor of a multitude of monastics, /
O our father Anthony; /
For truly we have learned to walk aright by following in thy steps. /
Blessèd art thou, for having labored for Christ, /
Thou hast destroyed the power of the enemy, /
O converser with the angels and companion of the righteous, ///
Pray with them to the Lord that He grant our souls great mercy.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

O Virgin unwedded, Mother of God on high, /
Thou hast ineffably conceived God in the flesh. /
Accept the entreaties of thy servants, O most immaculate one, /
And grant unto us all the purification of our transgressions /
And do thou, who hears our entreaties, ///
Pray for us all to be saved.

After the blessing of the loaves, the Troparion of St. Anthony, in Tone 4:

Thou didst equal Elijah in his zeal, O father Anthony, /
And didst follow John the Baptist in his holy way of life. /
Thou didst attract many to the wilderness, /
And didst establish the world on the firm foundation of thy prayers. ///
Intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls. *(twice)*

And the Theotokion: “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos...” *(once)*

Matins

At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Saint, twice; Glory..., now and ever..., the Theotokion, in Tone 4:

The mystery of all eternity /
Unknown even by angels /
Through thee is revealed on earth, O Mother of God, /
God incarnate by union without confusion. /
For our sake He voluntarily endured the Cross, /
By it He resurrected the first-created Adam ///
And saved our souls from death.

After the 1st Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Quickly go before...”*

Thou didst hearken to the call of thy Lord, /
O most blessed father Anthony, /
And forsaking all the beautiful things of this world /
Diligently didst thou bear the discomforts of the wilderness, /
Where thou didst courageously defeat the armies of demons. ///
Therefore, we faithfully praise thy memory in song. *(twice)*

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion:

Through thy divine birthgiving, O pure one, /

OUR VENERABLE FATHER ANTHONY THE GREAT

Thou didst renew the mortal nature of mankind /
That was corrupted by the passions; /
Thou didst raise us up from death to the life of incorruption. ///
Therefore, we rightly bless thee, as thou didst foretell, O most-glorious Virgin.

**After the 2nd Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 5: To the melody: “The co-
unoriginate Word...”**

Let us honor the great ascetic of the Lord /
For he mortified the assaults of the passions through steadfast endurance, /
And he shamed the enemy and all his arrogance through abstinence. /
Now he entreats the Lord ///
That our souls be granted great mercy. (twice)

Glory..., now and ever... Theotokion:

Truly awesome is the wonder of thy conceiving /
And past words or understanding is the manner of thy giving birth, O Theotokos, /
My mind marvels and my thoughts are full of pious fear; /
And thy glory, O Mother of God, ///
Is proclaimed to all for the salvation of our souls.

Polyeley and Magnification:

We bless thee, // O venerable father Anthony, / and we honor thy holy memory, /
instructor of monastics / and converser with the angels!

Selected Psalm verses:

I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my prayer.
He set my feet upon a rock, and guided my footsteps.

After the Polyeley, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8: Special melody: “Of Wisdom...”

O pillar and foundation of the monastic life, /
Truly didst thou master the skills of a shepherd /
And skillfully tend to thy reasoning flock; /
For having embraced the divine teachings of Christ /
Thou didst sow the Word among thy sheep /
Teaching them to zealously aspire to the angelic life /
And glorify God in unity of mind. /
Therefore, O God-bearing father Anthony, /
Pray Christ God that He may grant the remission of sins ///
To those who lovingly honor thy holy memony. (twice)

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion:

Let us praise the gate of heaven, the ark and the mountain of God; /
The radiant cloud and the bush unconsumed by fire; /
The spiritual paradise and the release of Eve; /
The great vessel containing the entire universe, /
For in her hath been wrought the salvation of the world /
And the remission of our ancient sins. /
Therefore let us cry out to her: /
Pray to Christ God that He grant remission of all transgressions ///
To us who piously worship Him who was born of thee.

1st Antiphon of the 4th Tone (The Song of Ascents), “From my youth...”

Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints. *Verse:* What shall I render unto the Lord for all His bounty to me?

Gospel: (43) Matthew 11:27-30

After Psalm 50 (51), the post-Gospel sticheron of the Saint, in Tone 6:

O holy Father Anthony, /
The proclamation of thy teachings hath gone out into all the world, /
Therefore thou hast obtained the reward of thy labors in heaven; /
Thou hast destroyed legions of demons, /
And attained to the choirs of the angels /
Whose life thou didst blamelessly emulate, /
Having now boldness before Christ our God, ///
Pray for the peace of the world and the salvation of our souls.

The Canon

**One Canon of the Mother of God, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos;
and that of the Saint, with 8 Troparia.**

Ode 1

The Canon of the Mother of God, Tone 2

*having the acrostic: “I sing the praises of the Life-bearing Maiden,”
the composition of Monk John of Damascus.*

Irmos: *Let us sing to the Lord, who by His divine command dried up the billowing sea where none may walk, and through it led the people of Israel on foot, for*

OUR VENERABLE FATHER ANTHONY THE GREAT

He hath been greatly glorified!

Refrain: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

The ancient vision of the ladder and the dry land wondrously appearing in the midst of the sea foretold thy giving birth, O pure one. Her do we all glorify, for He hath been glorified!

The power of the Most-High, the perfect One in Three persons, the Wisdom of God became incarnate of thee, O all-oure one, and conversed with man, for He hath been glorified.

The Sun of Righteousness hath passed through the impassable gate of thine unopened womb, O pure one, and hath shone forth upon the world, for He hath been glorified.

The Canon of the Saint, Tone 8

*having the acrostic: "It is good to praise the godly Anthony,"
the composition of Theophanes.*

Irmos: *The staff of Moses performed miracles, striking the sea like the Cross, submerging Pharaoh with his chariots, saving the Israelites in their flight as they sang a song of victory.*

Refrain: Venerable father Anthony, pray to God for us!

Having attained to life immortal and rejoicing in the splendor of the three-fold Light, pray that my darkened soul may be illumined by the light of grace, O father, that I may praise thee worthily.

Though young in bodily years, thou didst forge a new path of virtue, in obedience to the new law of the Savior, O thrice blessed one, following the life-giving commandments of the Gospel.

Shining with the radiance of the three-fold Sun, and enflamed with divine zeal, thou, O wise and blessed saint, didst heal the pain of sickness, stop the mouths of wild beasts, and destroy the arrogant malice of the demons as if it were a spider's web.

Glory...

Theotokion: **H**aving boldness, O Theotokos, before Him whom thou didst bear, even the only- begotten Son, co-eternal with the Father and of one essence with the Spirit, cease not to pray that He may save from all dangers those who glorify thee, O most-pure Virgin, Mother of God.

Now and ever..., Amen.

Katavasia: *The Irmosi from the Canon of the Meeting of the Lord, "The sun once shone with its rays..."*

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Ode 3

The Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos: **Thou didst crush the bow of the mighty with Thy strength, O Christ, and the weak have girded themselves with power.**

The timeless Creator of time before all ages willed to come forth from thee in time as an infant, O Virgin.

Let us all praise thy womb, which is more spacious than the heavens, for through it Adam now abides as a citizen of heaven, rejoicing.

The Canon of the Saint

Irmos: **Thou didst establish the heavens in wisdom; Thou didst set the earth upon the waters. Now establish me on the rock of Thy commandments. None is as holy as Thou, O Lover of man.**

Confirmed in mind and resolute in purpose, thou didst make the flames of passion wither, O father Anthony, and didst clothe thyself in the splendid garment of passionlessness and the robe of salvation.

Thou didst cast aside the feeble assaults of the demons who dared to assume the forms of wild beasts in their attacks, for He that is mighty in battle was with thee.

O God-bearing father Anthony, thou the glory of ascetics and boast of monastics, through great feats of abstinence thou didst triumph over the princes and dominions of darkness.

Theotokion: **Raise up my mind deadened by the life of this world, and bring it to Life through the life-giving action of Him who came into the world through thee, O pure one, for thou alone didst break in pieces the gates of death through thy childbearing.**

Katavasia.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8: To the melody "Of Wisdom...."

Binding thy soul with love for Christ /
Wisely didst thou come to revile the ways of the world, /
Making thy home in the mountains and wilderness. /
For having tasted of the rational tree, O glorious one, /
Thou didst shine forth like a radiant angel, /
O initiate of the mysteries. /
And having passed through the darkness of the flesh /
Thou didst dispel the darkness of the demons. /
Therefore, O father Anthony, first chosen of the monastics. /
Pray Christ God that He may grant the remission of sins ///

To those who lovingly honor thy holy memory. *(twice)*

Glory..., now and ever.... Theotokion:

As the pure bride of the Creator, /
And the Mother of the Savior, /
As one who knew not wedlock: /
The all-praised receptacle of the essence of the Comforter, /
Hasten to deliver me who has become the abode of evil, /
The plaything of demons and their evil spite; /
And make me the bright dwelling place of virtues, /
O radiant and incorruptible one! /
Drive away the clouds of my passions, ///
And through thy prayers, make me worthy to partake of the things of heaven.

Ode 4

The Canon of the Mother of God

*Irmos: I have heard, O Lord, the news of Thy dispensation, and I have glorified
Thee who alone lovest mankind.*

Behold, the true Mother of God, the divine mountain of the house of the Lord, is exalted far above all the powers of heaven!

O Virgin, thou alone are worthy of sacred adoration, for being alone beyond the laws of nature, thou gavest birth to the Master of all creation!

The Canon of the Saint

Irmos: Thou art my strength, O Lord, my God, my power, my joy; without leaving Thy Father's bosom Thou hast visited our wretchedness. So with the Prophet Habakkuk I cry to Thee: Glory to Thy Power, O Lover of man!

Climbing the divine ladder of virtues, O father, thou didst ascend to the heights, there to behold God, distributing divine gifts with His generous hand to those who with faith cry out: Glory to Thy power, O Lover of mankind!

Entirely dedicated to God, O most-wise Anthony, thou wast united to Him, one to the One, through spiritual discourse and the virtues; and in thy purity, thou wast vouchsafed a divine revelation, for having cast aside the world and all its earthly pleasures, thou hast worthily received the delights of heaven.

Cleansing thy mind and soul, O blessed father Anthony, thou didst expose the soul-destroying enticements, and the crafty and cruel devices and delusions of the adversary. For through sufferings didst thou learn, and now thou dost teach a multitude of monastics in the way.

Theotokion: **B**eseech of God who was born of thee yet remained without change that which He was, of one essence with the Father, and of the same essence as thee who bore Him, for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of souls to those who sing thy praisies with faith.

Ode 5

The Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos: **T**he burning ember which Isaiah foresaw is the Sun which shone forth from the Virgin's womb granting the light of understanding to all who had gone astray in the darkness.

Rain the sweetness of joy upon the earth, O ye clouds, for unto us a Child is given, our God before the ages, made incarnate of the Virgin.

When in these latter days the Most-High became incarnate without seed of the Virgin, the light shone upon my life and flesh, granting me release from the gloominess of sin.

The Canon of the Saint

Irmos: **W**hy hast Thou cast me away from Thy face, O never setting Light? Why has this dismal darkness covered me, the wretched one? Guide me in return to the light of Thy commandments, I pray Thee.

Having God who seeth all things dwelling within thee, O thrice-blessèd saint, teaching, enlightening and making thee wise, thou wast found worthy to witness the formation and ascent of countless blessed souls.

Christ gave thee the grace of healing many diseases and the power over unclean spirits, O wise one, and by defeating things of nature by the things that are beyond nature, thou O father, dost share in the grace of the Spirit.

Theotokion: **H**aving thee as a wall and a haven, and covered under thy protection, we bless thee, rejoicing in thy divine glory; for thou, O all-pure One, pourest gladness and joy upon our souls.

Ode 6

The Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos: **H**earken to the voice of my feeble soul, O Master, and deliver me from my grievous sins, for Thou alone art the Author of our salvation.

Human nature, enslaved by sin, obtained release through thee, O pure Lady; for thy Son was led to the slaughter like a lamb for the sake of us all.

We all cry out to thee, O Theotokos, to deliver us, thy servants who properly deserve God's wrath, for thou alone hast boldness before thy Son.

The Canon of the Saint

OUR VENERABLE FATHER ANTHONY THE GREAT

Irmos: The abyss of sin and the storm of temptations discomfit me, and I am cast into despair; but stretch forth Thy mighty hand to me as Thou didst to Peter, O my helmsman, and save me!

Taking upon yourself a difficult life in accordance to God's law while still a tender youth, O father made wise by God, thou didst preserve it unto the end; and as a valiant warrior thou hast received thy crown of victory from the King of all.

Having thee, O blessed one, as our powerful intercessor, advocate, champion and defender before God, we are saved from every danger and temptation and calamity.

Theotokion: Truly hast thou elevated the fallen nature of man, O Mother of God, for thou hast borne without seed the immutable Son in thy womb, the visible and divine Image, the Equal of the Father.

Katavasia.

The Kontakion of St. Anthony, in Tone 2: To the melody, "Seeking the highest...."

O most ven'erable father Anthony /
Thou didst reject all the troubles of this world /
And didst pacefully complete thy course /
Emulating the life of the Baptist in every way. /
So, together with him, we exalt thy name, ///
As the father of monastics.

Ikos: Having heard the voice of Christ, O Father, thou didst follow in the steps of His commandments. Thou didst strip thyself of every earthly thing casting away all care for money, possessions, thy servants and even thy sister's love, O God-bearing father Anthony. And communing alone with God in the wilderness thou didst receive the grace of understanding, which I pray thee to send upon us who sing thy praises, O Anthony, the first among all the monastics.

Ode 7

The Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos: The three youths of old revealed their love of Wisdom when they sang from their soul the song well-pleasing to God: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Jacob beheld God at night, as in a dream, made incarnate of thee, appearing in glory to those who sing: Blessed and most-glorious art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Prefiguring in ancient times the ineffable union to take place in thee, O pure one, while wrestling with Jacob, He, who willingly united Himself to mankind is the blessed and most-glorious God of our fathers.

Wretched is the man, who fails to proclaim Thee with faith as the Son of the Virgin and One of the All-Holy Trinity, and who fails to cry: Blessèd and most-glorious art Thou, O God of our fathers!

The Canon of the Saint

Irmos: In Babylon the flames were put to shame by God's condescension; the young men in the furnace danced in joy and sang in exultation: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Thy hands are like cups of fragrance spreading the sweet aroma of virtue and salvation as from a garden for those who cry with faith: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

The grace of the All-Holy Spirit hath come to dwell in thee enabling thee to cast out evil spirits, O father, and making thee an instructor of all the monks who cry: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Theotokion: **C**ome, and let us praise the all-pure and all-holy Mary, for through her the grace of the gifts past all understanding pour forth upon us as a torrent of divine goodness. Let us now piously call her blessèd.

Ode 8

The Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos: **D**isdaining the image made of gold, the thrice-blessèd youths beheld the changeless and living God of God, and in the midst of the flames they sang: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all throughout all ages.

Through thee, He who is incomparable in goodness and power came visibly to earth and dwelt among men, O Mother of God, and to Him do we, the faithful sing: Let the whole creation praise the Lord and exalt Him above all throughout all ages.

We praise thee as being truly the most-pure Mother of God, for thou hast brought forth One Person of the Trinity in the flesh, and we sing to Him together with the Father and the Spirit: Let the whole creation praise the Lord and exalt Him above all throughout all ages.

The Canon of the Saint

Irmos: The Chaldean torturer became enraged; he ordered the furnace to be heated sevenfold; but seeing the godly youths saved by a greater might, he sang to the Creator and Redeemer: Bless Him, O ye children, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him throughout all ages!

Thou didst live on earth as an angel being vigilant in prayer, strong in fasting and patient in tribulations, O father Anthony, and in purity of mind thou didst cry out to God: Bless Him, O ye children, praise Him, O ye priests, sing and exalt Him throughout all ages.

OUR VENERABLE FATHER ANTHONY THE GREAT

Drawing ever closer to God through ceaseless prayer and vigil, thou didst hasten to the highest summit, escaping all the snares of the demons, and freeing thy mind from their tyranny, O Anthony made wise by God, thou didst cry out to Him: Bless Him, O ye children, praise Him, O ye priests, sing and exalt Him throughout all ages.

Like a new Moses, thou hast brought victory over the enemies in the wilderness and led thy people, the monks of the desert, with gladness to a new way of life, crying out to the Master: Bless Him, O ye children, praise Him, O ye priests, sing and exalt Him throughout all ages.

Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord!

Theotokion: **O** all-pure Mother of God, cleanse the wounds of my soul and the scabs of my sins, washing them with the purifying streams flowing from the side of Him whom thou didst bear. For unto thee do I cry, and in thee do I take refuge, and on thee do I call, O thou, who art full of divine grace!

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

Katavasia.

Ode 9

The Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos: **Thou art the whole of my desire and all my sweetness, O Word of God, Son of the Virgin, the God of gods, and the Holy of all holies. Therefore, we magnify Thee and her that bore Thee.**

From within thy womb, O pure one, did the Word of God endow our mortal nature with a staff of power, and with it He hath raised all who had slipped and fallen into Hades. Therefore, we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Mercifully receive, O Master, thy Mother whom Thou hast chosen to intercede with Thee for us, and let all things be filled with thy goodness, that we may all magnify thee as our Benefactor.

The Canon of the Saint

Irmos: **The heavens were filled with fear, the ends of the earth were filled with awe, for God revealed Himself in the flesh to men; and thy womb became more spacious than the heavens, so the leaders of men and angels magnify thee, O Theotokos!**

Thy light-bearing festival hath come, O most-blessèd father Anthony, full of joy and spiritual gladness; full of the Holy Spirit, full of fragrance and of light. And we rejoice, for we now have thee as a rule of abstinence and a new giver of the law.

Never cease to entreat our Deliverer, O all-honorable father, for those who reverently

celebrate thy holy memory; that they may be granted remission of their sins, a share of the gifts of grace, divine protection, the salvation of their souls, and everlasting joy.

Living as an equal of the angels while here on earth, O venerable father Anthony, thou didst attain their splendor, for being a participant in the radiance of their divine brightness, thou didst rejoice as a divine prophet and a crowned martyr, exemplifying the monastic way of life.

Theotokion: Thou didst conceive within thy womb without seed, O Virgin, and without the will of the flesh, the Word of God and Fashioner of all, and thou gavest Him birth without corruption or travail. Therefore, confessing thee with both both tongue and heart, we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Exapostilarion of the Saint:

O Anthony, thou father of monastics, thou hast been revealed as a light for those whom thou hast taught to walk along the path of piety, and a bolt of lightning consuming the armies of demons with its fire. *(twice)*

Glory..., now and ever.... Theotokion:

We bless thee with unceasing hymns, O Virgin Theotokos, for thou gavest birth to One in the Trinity, and dost bear in thy divine embrace the Precious, Immutable and Unchangeable Word.

At the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone 8: *To the melody, "O most glorious wonder...."*

O ven'erable father Anthony, /
Taking upon thy sholders the yoke of Christ, /
Bravely didst thou trample the enemy under thy feet, /
And make cities of monastics to rise in the wilderness. /
So we all faithfully honor thee, O all-blessed one, /
As the boast of monastics. ///
Therefore, ceaselessly pray to Christ that we may be saved! *(twice)*

Let us the faithful assembled today, /
Honor thee as an ascetic of Christ /
Who journeyed to the trackless wilderness with joy; /
There to become a spiritual guide, O wise one. /
Therefore, we the faithfully cry ot to thee: /
Rejoice, thou boast of monastics, ///
Ceaselessly pray to Christ that we may be saved!

O most-holy father Anthony, /

OUR VENERABLE FATHER ANTHONY THE GREAT

Thou didst shut thyself up within a tomb /
For the sake of attaining the true life. /
Thou didst not fear the invisible foes when, with noise, they came upon thee /
Striking them down by the power of thy prayers, /
O the great courage of thy soul! ///
Therefore, we the faithfull bless and honor thee.

Glory..., in the same Tone:

O wondrous father Anthony, /
Through thy virtues and thy fasting in the wilderness, /
Thou didst ascend in a heavenly chariot, /
Reaching the beautiful bastions of Jerusalem on high, /
Rightly to receive the reward for thy labor and thy suffering, /
And to rejoice with the ranks of the heavenly hosts. /
Thou didst inherit eternal joy, O God-bearing father Anthony, /
And as a dweller of the Kingdom of heaven ///
Pray the Savior of all to grant peace to the world and to save our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Accept, O Sovereign Lady /
The prayers of us, thy servants, ///
And deliver us from every danger and necessity.

The Great Doxology; Troparion to the Saint; the usual litanies and the dismissal.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Third Ode and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the Canon of the Saint.

1-2. Confirmed in mind and resolute in purpose, thou didst make the flames of passion wither, O father Anthony, and didst clothe thyself in the splendid garment of passionlessness and the robe of salvation. *(twice)*

3. Thou didst cast aside the feeble assaults of the demons who dared to assume the forms of wild beasts in their attacks, for He that is mighty in battle was with thee.

4. O God-bearing father Anthony, thou the glory of ascetics and boast of monastics, through great feats of abstinence thou didst triumph over the princes and dominions of darkness.

5-6. Taking upon yourself a difficult life in accordance to God's law while still a

tender youth, O father made wise by God, thou didst preserve it unto the end; and as a valiant warrior thou hast received thy crown of victory from the King of all. *(twice)*

7. Having thee, O blessed one, as our powerful intercessor, advocate, champion and defender before God, we are saved from every danger and temptation and calamity.

8. Theotokion: Truly hast thou elevated the fallen nature of man, O Mother of God, for thou hast borne without seed the immutable Son in thy womb, the visible and divine Image, the Equal of the Father.

The Troparion of St. Anthony, in Tone 4:

Thou didst equal Elijah in his zeal, O father Anthony, /
And didst follow John the Baptist in his holy way of life. /
Thou didst attract many to the wilderness, /
And didst establish the world on the firm foundation of thy prayers. ///
Intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.

The Kontakion of St. Anthony, in Tone 2:

O most ven'erable father Anthony /
Thou didst reject all the troubles of this world /
And didst pacefully complete thy course /
Emulating the life of the Baptist in every way. /
So, together with him, we exalt thy name, ///
As the father of monastics.

The Prokeimenon, in Tone 7: Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints. *Verse:* What shall I render to the Lord for all His bounty to me?

The Epistle: (335) Hebrews 13:17-21

The Alleluia, in Tone 6: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. *Verse:* His seed shall be mighty in the land.

The Gospel: (24) Luke 6:17-23

Communion Hymn: The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings. Alleluia....