



ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT
ΑΓΙΟΣ ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΣ Ο ΜΕΓΑΣ

JANUARY 17

NAME _____ GRADE _____

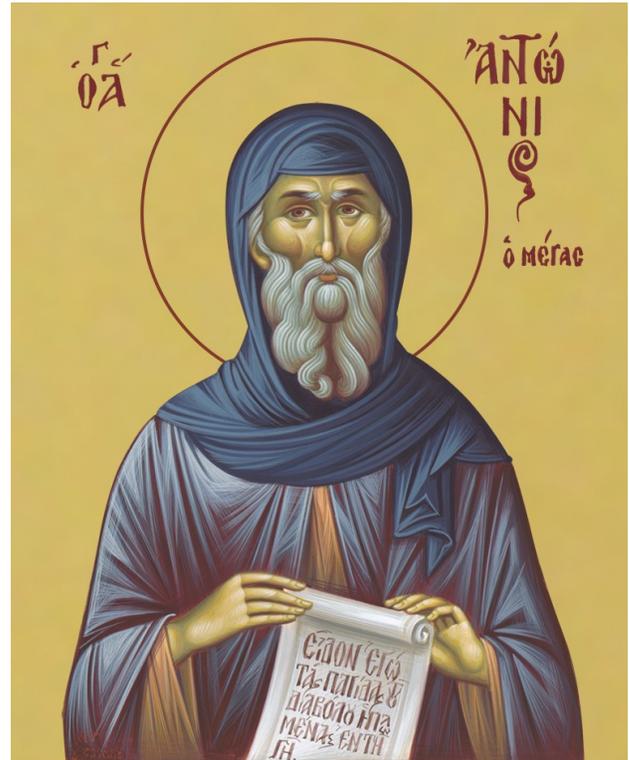
Anthony the Great (c. 251-356)

January 17

Patronage:
Peristeri, Athen, Greece

Venerated in:
Eastern Orthodox Church
Coptic Orthodox Church
Assyrian Church of the East
Oriental Orthodox Church
Roman Catholic Church
Anglican Church
Lutheran Church

Relics:



Anthony was born in Egypt of very rich devout parents. He had very limited education, but attended church religiously with his parents and observed the services intensely. He wanted to enrich his spiritual growth.

When he was 18 years old, both his parents died and he lived with his sister and took care of family affairs. After a while he decided to follow his desire for this spiritual growth. He sold all of the family property, gave the money to the poor. He entrusted his sister to a Christian home for young women (at that time there were no monasteries).

Anthony built a cell a short distance from the city and lived there. He followed the example of an old hermit who lived in the area, praying, fasting and meditating. He remained awake for days at a time, eating only once a day, sometimes once every two days, and slept on the ground. His philosophy was that young men should torture their bodies as much as possible so that their resistance to physical and spiritual sickness would be higher.

To further his struggle in his ascetic life, at the age of 35, he went into the desert where he found an abandoned fortress in which he barricaded himself. A good Christian would bring him food every six months. He had no other contact with people, yet constantly battled Satan's temptations.

As the years passed, many men visited him, wanting to follow his example by living the life of a hermit, undergoing spiritual struggles. In time, this became the first monastery, established in 305 AD. St. Anthony is known as the Father of Monasticism.

Anthony and some other monks travelled to Alexandria to comfort and encourage many suffering Christians during the persecutions under Emperor Maximianus. He worked many miracles and his fame spread throughout the area. Constantine the Great and one of his sons, who lived in Constantinople, would write letters to Anthony asking for his advice and his blessing.

After spending 85 years in the solitary desert, Anthony died in 356 at the age of 105. He instructed two of his monks to bury him secretly. His burial place is still unknown.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_the_Great
<http://www.orthodoxchristian.info/pages/anthony.htm>

icon - <http://www.shopartisgr.com/en/saints/56-st-antonios.html>