

January 17, 2023

Good Morning!

~Consecration to Mary Class continues this evening with Deacon Chet at the Parish Office; 6:30

1. Today's Readings: [Memorial of Saint Anthony, Abbott | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Our article includes two short biographies of St. Anthony, the abbot, who lived in Egypt. One is an overview of his life while the other is an excerpt from the writings of St. Athanasius about St. Anthony. The last quote by St. Athanasius about St. Anthony states, "Anthony was not known for his writings nor for his worldly wisdom, nor for any art, but simply for his reverence toward God." If that could only be said of each of us!

3. Quotes of the Day:

~"The illusions of this world soon vanish, especially if a man arms himself with the Sign of the Cross. The devils tremble at the Sign of the Cross of our Lord, by which He triumphed over and disarmed them." *St. Anthony*

~"I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, "What can get through from such snares?" Then I heard a voice saying to me, "Humility." *St. Anthony*

~"Reject pride and consider everyone more righteous than yourself." *St. Anthony*

~St Anthony told his monks:

For the presence, either of the good or evil, by the help of God, can easily be distinguished. The vision of the holy ones is not fraught with distraction: 'For they will not strive, nor cry, nor shall anyone hear their voice' (Matthew 12:19; Isaiah 42:2). But it comes quietly and gently. that an immediate joy, gladness and courage, arise in the soul. For the Lord, who is our joy, is with them and the power of God the Father." *St Ambrose: (340-397) Life of Saint Anthony*

***St. Anthony the Abbot, Pray for Us!***

***St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***

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## **St. Anthony, Abbot, 251-356**

Not too many Saints are known for fighting demons and their hermit lifestyles, but Saint Anthony the Abbot is one whose life is a lesson on what it means to keep fighting the good fight.

Anthony was an Egyptian of noble birth, but soon after his parents died when he was 20, he took Christ's teaching to heart: "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Mt 19: 21) After leaving his younger sister with a group of consecrated virgins, Anthony took to a life of solitude- first living outside the gates of town and then in the desert, practicing self-denial and giving witness through constant prayer.

There are several accounts of Anthony being tempted by the demons in the Egyptian desert, and these temptations have been recorded in art and literature throughout the centuries.

Word of his life as a hermit began to spread and crowds of people began to seek him out in the desert. Monks wished to live as he did, and lay people sought his advice and powers of healing.

He is often referred to as "Father of Monasticism" because he was the first monk known to go to the wilderness, and he offered instruction to the earliest monastic communities that settled close to him.

The details of Anthony's life come from the biography, *Life of Anthony*, written in Greek around the year 360 by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria. It was translated into Latin shortly after publication and it became one of the most widely read books through the Middle Ages. Anthony lived until he was 105 years old.

Saint Athanasius said of him "Anthony was not known for his writings nor for his worldly wisdom, nor for any art, but simply for his reverence toward God."

*Source: themiscellany.org*

## **From the Life of Saint Anthony by St. Athanasius, Bishop**

### *Saint Anthony receives his vocation*

When Anthony was about eighteen or twenty years old, his parents died, leaving him with an only sister. He cared for her as she was very young, and also looked after their home.

Not six months after his parents' death, as he was on his way to church for his usual visit, he began to think of how the apostles had left everything and followed the Savior, and also of those mentioned in the book of Acts who had sold their possessions and brought the apostles the money for distribution to the needy. He reflected too on the great hope stored up in heaven for such as these. This was all in his mind when, entering the church just as the Gospel was being read, he heard the Lord's words to the rich man: If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor – you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me.

It seemed to Anthony that it was God who had brought the saints to his mind and that the words of the Gospel had been spoken directly to him. Immediately he left the church and gave away to the villagers all the property he had inherited, about 200 acres of very beautiful and fertile land, so that it would cause no distraction to his sister and himself. He sold all his other possessions as well, giving to the poor the considerable sum of money he collected. However, to care for his sister he retained a few things.

The next time he went to church he heard the Lord say in the Gospel: Do not be anxious about tomorrow. Without a moment's hesitation he went out and gave the poor all that he had left. He placed his sister in the care of some well-known and trustworthy virgins and arranged for her to be brought up in the convent. Then he gave himself up to the ascetic life, not far from his own home. He kept a careful watch over himself and practiced great austerity. He did manual work because he had heard the words: If anyone will not work, do not let him eat. He spent some of his earnings on bread and the rest he gave to the poor. Having learned that we should always be praying, even when we are by ourselves, he prayed without ceasing. Indeed, he was so attentive when Scripture was read that nothing escaped him and because he retained all he heard, his memory served him in place of books.

Seeing the kind of life he lived, the villagers and all the good men he knew called him the friend of God, and they loved him as both son and brother.