

THE GUARDIAN

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
See of the Rt. Rev. JOSEPH, Bishop of Los Angeles and the West



Pastoral Message

Dearly beloved faithful of St. Michael,

Blessings and prayerful best wishes to you and your families on this joyous and most glorious Paschal season. **CHRIST IS RISEN!**

Truly, there is no other day or Feast in the church that defines what we believe than Holy Pascha. It is, as we sing: the "Feast of Feasts" and "Holy Day of Holy Days." It is the focal point of the year and the central message of the church - the Gospel message: "...for lo, through the Cross has joy come into all the world! Ever blessing the Lord let us sing His Resurrection, for in that He has endured the Cross He has destroyed death by Death!"

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May the power of God's bountiful forgiveness and the great mercy He has showered upon us be shared by all who know Him as the Lord.

Al Maseeah qam! Christos Anesti!
Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!

Father Timothy & Gretchen Baclig

Is your information up to date?

- Do you still live at the same address you did last year?
- Is your phone number the same?
- Have any of the children in your family suddenly grown up and moved out to their own residence?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions...Does the church office know??

Once again, the directory of our Parish family is being updated. Please be sure to notify the office of any changes ASAP!

Does Fr. Timothy have your email address?? If not, don't delay - be sure to send Father an email at: pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org

Fr. Timothy sends out a variety of information via email...don't be left out!!



A New Church ??

By Kris Thabit, Parish Council Chair

The paschal season and its many glorious services bring to light not only God's love for us and our need for Him, but also the inadequacy of our church building. On Palm Sunday, many parishioners had to sit outside during the service and were unable to effectively participate in the service. Many more, I fear do not show up because they want to avoid the crowd. On any given Sunday the termites easily outnumber the worshipers, and there is little desire to upgrade a building with a bad roof, old heating and air conditioning and faulty electrical wiring.

Our community grows each year, but could grow faster with a better facility. Additionally, when the church hall was built, we agreed as a part of our permits to build a new church. We have successfully paid down much of our mortgage, now at \$251,110 and it is now time to consider building a new church. How much might this cost and how will we pay for it? Stay tuned !

MINOR RENOVATION PROJECT ANNOUNCED

A small group of parents has committed to renovating the nursery loft to make it a more engaging and appropriate nursery space for our children during church services. The entire project will be accomplished over one or two Saturdays, the first being June 25 from 10 am to 4 pm.

To be successful, we need the following:

- A few more parents to help with the renovation
- Two or three people to baby-sit the children of the working parents in the Church School nursery room
- New or used kid furniture, books and toys clean, unbroken, that don't make noise.

Please consider helping in any way, especially if you are a parent and use the nursery loft.

This is a simple project that will create a wonderful atmosphere for our children as they learn to participate in the liturgical life of their church.

To join the project or donate items please contact John Khouri after church or contact him via phone or email at:
310-526-4286 or jkhouri@yahoo-inc.com.

Thank you!

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14



Great Course! Great Prizes! Great Friends! Great Fun! The 16th Annual St. Michael Golf Classic – June 6

Dedicated to the Memory of the V. Rev. Fr. Paul Romley,
Dean of St. Nicholas Cathedral

At the Calabasas Country Club



10 am Check-In & Driving Range
12 noon Shot-Gun Tee-Off & Box Lunch
5 pm Social Hour
6 pm Texas Barbeque & Live Auction

\$170 Per Player includes Greens Fee, Cart, Dinner, and more. Dinner only is \$45.

Reserve your spot by May 31:

Don Meena, (661) 259-9449 donmeena@aol.com or Danny Andrews, (661) 831-9456 bigandrews@yahoo.com

Reminder: Have you purchased your Golf Raffle tickets that were sent to your house?
There's still time...6 for \$25 or \$5 each
The Golf Classic is a success only with YOUR support!!

Saint of the Month – Ephraim, Patriarch of Antioch

Saint Ephraim, Patriarch of Antioch
Commemorated on June 8th

During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Anastasius, Ephraim was governor of the eastern regions. He was known to all for his great piety & charity and because of this he was greatly respected. When it was necessary to rebuild Antioch, which had been destroyed by earthquake & fire, the emperor assigned the governor Ephraim to direct this task. Ephraim fulfilled his duty with diligence and love.

Among the ordinary stonecutters was a bishop, who for unknown reasons had left his Episcopal see and was working as a common laborer, and no one knew that he was a bishop. One day he lay down to rest from the exhausting work with the other laborers, and fell asleep. The governor Ephraim glanced at him and saw a fiery pillar rising from this man to the heavens.

Amazed & frightened, Ephraim summoned this man & made him swear to tell him who he was. The man hesitated, but finally acknowledged that he was a bishop & prophesied to Ephraim that he would shortly be consecrated Patriarch of Antioch.

Indeed, Ephraim was elected & consecrated Patriarch. Because of his goodness, purity & zeal for Orthodoxy, God gave him the great gift of working miracles. One time, to convince a heretic that Orthodoxy is true, he placed his pallium in the fire & prayed to God. His pallium stayed in the fire for three hours intact. Seeing this the heretic was astonished & rejected his heresy.

St. Ephraim reposed in peace in the year 546 and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of God.

Liturgical Notes

40 days Fast Free

It is the practice of our Patriarchate to observe a dispensation from all fasting during the forty-day period from May 1st (Pascha) to the Feast of the Ascension (May 9th).

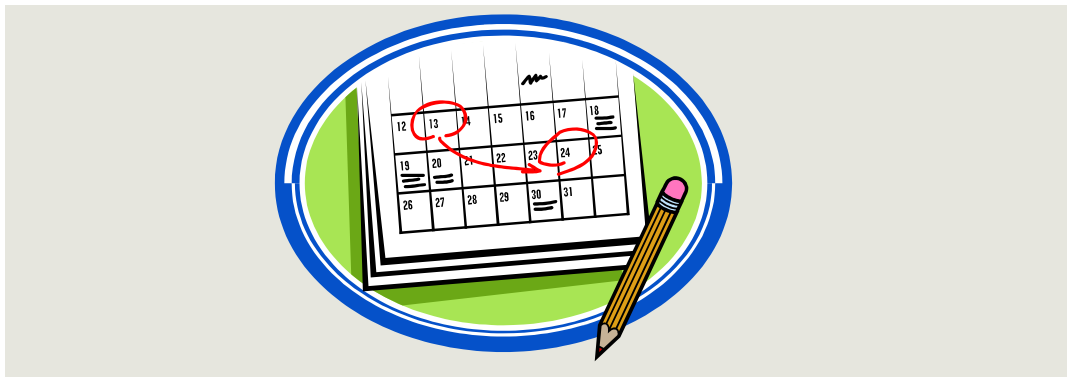
Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

A Vespereal Divine Liturgy will be held on the eve of The Feast of the Ascension, Thursday, May 8th, beginning at 6:30 p.m.



The Great Feast of Pentecost (50 days following Pascha) falls on Sunday, June 19th. Wednesday, June 15th and Friday, June 17th are observed as days of fasting. The week following the Feast of Pentecost is fast free, including Friday, June 24 (The Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist).

This year the Fast of the Holy Apostles is observed from Monday, June 27 to the Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul (June 29th).



SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

- May 21st Palm Springs Follies
- June 6th St. Michael Golf Outing
- June 21st Ladies Meeting
- June 29th - July 4th Parish Life Conference hosted by St. Nicholas, San Francisco
- July 24 - 31st - Archdiocese Convention hosted by St. George Troy, Michigan
- August 13th Laguna Pageant of the Masters
- October 22nd LUAU ! More info coming soon!

Bishop JOSEPH's Schedule

- May 15 St. Timothy - Lompoc, CA
- May 21-22 St. Stephen - Campbell, CA
- June 1-5 Archdiocese Headquarters and St. Nicholas, Brooklyn, NY
- June 11-12 St. Mark - Irvine, CA
- June 26 St. Athanasius - Goleta, CA
- June 27 - July 4 Parish Life Conference St. Nicholas, San Francisco

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stmichaelvannuys.org

Thanks!

Sincere thanks to parishioners Larry and Charlotte Lechlak for donating their services and printing the March 2005 issue of The Guardian!



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