

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Second of Luke

The Hieromartyr Cyprian the Confessor

Virgin-martyr Justina; Venerable Theophilos; New-martyr George;

Blessed Andrew, Fool for Christ; David and Constantine,

Prince-martyrs of Georgia; Anna, Princess of Kashin

Sunday, October 2, 2011

Tone 7; Eothinon 5

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 7)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of St. Cyprian the Confessor (Tone 4)

Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O mother Euphrosyne; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

Apolytikion for our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)

By choosing the Apostles' way of life, thou hast succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the Word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith to the very shedding of thy blood, O Hieromartyr Cyprian. Entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

Kontakion for the Theotokos (Tone 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (6:1-10)

Brethren, working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

THE GOSPEL (The Second Sunday of Luke)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (6:31-36)

The Lord said: "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in

return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

The Synaxarion

On October 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Hieromartyr Cyprian and Justina the Virgin.

Verses

*Satan is in anguish, seeing his former friend's longing
To die swiftly by the sword with the virgin Justina.
On the second, Cyprian was beheaded with Justina.*

Cyprian moved from Carthage to Antioch, where Justina lived with her idolatrous parents, Edesius and Cleodonia. Justina came to know the true Faith, brought both her father and mother to Christ the Lord and all three were baptized by the bishop, Optatus. Cyprian was a magician, and had links with unclean spirits and powers of divination. A dissolute youth Aglaidas, a pagan, tried to lead Justina astray, and, when the holy maiden firmly rejected him, sought Cyprian's help. Cyprian invoked evil spirits, one after the other, on Justina, but they were totally unsuccessful. Justina, with the sign of the Cross and prayer to God, drove out the evil spirits. Then Cyprian came to know the power of the Cross, and was himself baptized, in time becoming priest and bishop. The pagans seized both him and Justina, and they were sent for trial to Damascus, and then tortured and beheaded in Nicomedia at the end of the third century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Theophilos; New-martyr George; Blessed Andrew, fool-for-Christ; David and Constantine, prince-martyrs of Georgia; and Anna, princess of Kashin. *By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

NOTE

At the end of the Liturgy during the veneration of the cross, please refrain from speaking loudly and keep in order that the prayers read after Holy Communion may be heard by everyone in the church. Thank you.

A Note Regarding Holy Communion

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, *only* those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent Confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.

OFFERINGS

The Deeb, Kouri, Najjar and Bastron families are offering the Holy Bread and wheat* in loving memory of the one year passing of their beloved mother and sister, Marion Deeb. Memory eternal.

* The offering of wheat (*ahmah*) for memorial services is a practice that can be traced back to the middle of the fourth century. In earlier times, bread and wine with olives, cheese or rice were offered in charity, and those who partook of them would pray, "Blessed be his/her memory." The wheat is cooked sometimes with honey or sugar, mixed with figs, raisins, nuts and other sweets. The grain and fruit brought to the commemoration of the dead signifies that the dead will truly rise again from the grave, for both grain, which is sown in the earth, and fruit, which is laid on the earth, decays first and afterwards brings forth abundant ripe, whole fruit. The honey or sugar used with the wheat signifies that after the resurrection of the Orthodox and the righteous, there awaits a joyous and blessed life in the Heavenly Kingdom and not a bitter sorrowful one. The wheat prepared from grain expresses the faith of the living in the resurrection of the dead to a better life, just as that seed, having fallen upon the ground, although undergoing corruption yet grows to attain a better appearance. (See I Corinthians 15:35-57)

The Coffee Hour is being hosted this morning by the Deeb, Kouri, Najjar and Bastron families in loving memory of their mother and sister Marion Deeb (+2 October, 2010).

Holy Bread is also being offered this morning by

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

by Don & Lillian Meena and family in loving memory of
Marion Deeb, beloved friend, forever remembered.

for the one-year memorial of the servant of God,
Alice Ayoob (+30 September, 2010). Memory eternal.

for Justina Wassef, celebrating her Feast Day today.

the region of the Middle East. However, this perception is both erroneous and dangerous. The destruction of the natural environment will completely annihilate any apparent social and economic obligations resulting from any political change, for which struggles are conducted today at the expense of many lives. This led us to the decision of adopting the proposal of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, according to which we should soon prepare and achieve an encounter of religious leaders in the region, where a form of "Mediterranean Charter" would be drafted and proclaimed. In this way, the Orthodox Church would not only fulfill its obligation before God's creation, but would also contribute to the peaceful coexistence and cooperation among religions in this region today torn by conflicts in the Mediterranean.

Beloved in the Lord,

"Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts." (Rom. 5.3-5)

Our minds and hearts are with all those who suffer terribly in the region of our Churches, those deprived of freedom and religious rights throughout the world, and especially in the Middle East. Religious leaders of all faiths are obliged to contribute with all our strength to the peaceful coexistence of all religious communities in the region of the Middle East. This territory must and can become a land of peace and friendship among all people.

In announcing these things from this Center of Orthodoxy to all people of good will, we embrace and bless everyone with love.

At the Phanar, September 2, 2011

We Orthodox believe in the word of Scripture, that “perfect love casts out fear.” (John 4.18) We do not fear other persons, irrespective of their religion. We embrace them as brothers and sisters, while expecting them to behave in the same way toward us. At the same time, we do not refrain from demanding the protection to which we are entitled by the states where we live. This, we believe, is the sole solution to the problems of the greatly tormented region of the Middle East, as well as of the entire world.

Let us, therefore, increase our inter-Christian and inter-religious dialogue of reconciliation. The Ecumenical Patriarchate has for many years now instituted an interfaith dialogue with the other two monotheistic religions in accordance with the relevant decision of the 3rd Preconciliar Panorthodox Consultation (1986). We applaud and support this endeavor, especially in these difficult times, when violence shakes the region where the commandment of love and message of peace were first heard.

Thus, we address politicians and religious leaders both in the Middle East and the entire world, calling upon them to create principles and commitments for peaceful coexistence among the faithful of various religious traditions, while at the same time declaring our solidarity with all those enduring discrimination, violence and persecution. We stand in suffering beside our brothers and sisters plagued by violent conflict, the innocent victims of military strife, and the multitudes obliged to abandon their homes in order to pursue the harsh way of emigration. We comprehend peoples’ desire and demand for political liberty and call upon the appropriate governments to proceed immediately with complete assurance of these rights. The Church does not interfere in politics, rendering “to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” (Matt. 22.21) Politics as a method of resolving human problems belongs to others, and not to the Church. Nevertheless, the problems in themselves, and the fundamental anthropological and sociological principles for resolving these cannot leave the Church indifferent, especially when they threaten or endanger the dignity and freedom of the human person as “image of God” (Gen. 1.26) or of His “very good” creation. (Gen. 1.31)

This last point regarding the protection of the natural environment tends to be undermined or else regarded as being of secondary importance under the stifling pressure of political, social and economic problems, which today trouble

May God grant her many years!

for the good health and happiness of Ramez Hage celebrating his birthday (October 6th), and for Ramez & Rima’s 39th wedding anniversary (October 7th), by Teddy & April, Steven & Erin, and the five grandchildren – we love you and wish you well, praying for God’s continued blessings on both of you. Also in memory of Ramez’s father, Toufic El-Hage (+29 September, 1992) and his aunt Alice Ayooob (+30 September, 2010). Memory eternal.

Included in our prayers throughout the month of October are those celebrating their birthday: Mitchel Thabit II (10/4), Father Ephraim Alkhas (10/5), Nicole Dunphy (10/6), Michael Malouf (10/5), Ramez Hage (10/6), Tom Homsy (10/6), Isabel Horaney (10/6), Emile F. Skaff (10/6), Edna L. Deeb (10/8), Dr. Mitchel Thabit (10/8), Marisah Yazbek (10/8), Carrie Sadd Khouri (10/9), Bria McLinn (10/9), Christiana Randee Ababseh (10/10), Glenn Terry (10/10), John Malouf (10/11), Jessica Abughazaleh (10/12), Samantha Abughazaleh (10/12), Tina Coury (10/12), Michael Nassir (10/12), Ed Chaffin (10/13), Jed Dabbour (10/14), Mark Nassir (10/14), Ele Yazbek (10/14), Steven Abughazaleh (10/15), Khazma Makhoul (10/15), Nicole Lee Nasser Dunphy (10/15), Nathaniel Tensen (10/15), Bill Klimowych (10/17), Audrianna Hage (10/18), Vera Ababseh (10/19), Natalie Malouf (10/19), Dena Sophia Nicola (10/20), Christina Rygiol (10/20), Ameera Caroleen Abughazaleh (10/20), Al Coury, Sr. (10/21), Leila Salamy (10/21), Leilah Yanni (10/23), Justin Charles Coury (10/24), Charmaine Darmour (10/27), Daniel Saidy (10/27), Sylvana Barney (10/28), Robert Homsey, Jr. (10/28), Natasha Yazbek (10/28), Ricky Nicola, Jr. (10/29), Alexandra Ibrahim (10/30), Dominique Ibrahim (10/30), Mallory Murr (10/31), Elaine Srour (10/31); and celebrating their wedding anniversary: Mark & Alexandra Nassief (10/4), Julie & Matthew Ciganek, (10/4), Collyn & Lisa Nielsen (10/6), George & Janet Saade (10/6), Ramez & Rima Hage (10/7), Christian & Lisa Gascou (10/7), Robert & Amal Makhoul (10/10), Nick & Margaret Soffa (10/10), Leilah & Daniel Lewin (10/11), Richard & Janice Khoury (10/20), Michael & Libby Vincenzino (10/22), Don &

Lillian Meena (10/28), Magued & Sahar Wassef (10/30). May God grant them all many years!

Included in our prayers for the departed during the month of October are:

William F. Cates +27 Oct. 1953	Saide Simon, +13 Oct. 2000
Elias Nassief +20 Oct. 1956	Ramza Aboud, +18 Oct. 2000
Della H. Cates +11 Oct. 1963	Irene Hopkins, +26 Oct. 2000
Elsie Gallade, +4 Oct. 1978	Lillian Rizk, +12 Oct. 2002
Elsie Barkett Murray, +4 Oct. 1980	Nancy Lee Downing, +19 Oct. 2002
Cora May Spencer, +16 Oct. 1983	V. Rev. Paul Romley, +26 Oct. 2003
Frank G. Farris, +27 Oct. 1985	Mary Homsy, +31 Oct. 2003
Peter Meena, +27 Oct. 1989	Marta Vaskis Ervin, +6 Oct. 2004
Elias Saadeh, +19 Oct. 1976	Samia Malick, +8 Oct. 2006
Nicholas Barakat, +16 Oct. 1992	Andrew Mittry, +Oct. 2007
Derek Jacob, +5 Oct. 1992	Dn. Fadel Mubaraka, +15 Oct. 2007
Nafie Skaff, +14 Oct. 1995	Michael Abughazaleh, +17 Oct. 2007
Sophie Yanni, +28 Oct. 1995	Evelyn Raies-Murr, +17 Oct. 2007
Rose C. Farris, +1 Oct. 98	Philip Ryan, +18 Oct. 2007
Hanna Sweis, +4 Oct.	Tove Kelsey, +3 Oct. 2008
Toufic Thabet, +17 Oct.	Miriam Saadeh, +1 October, 2009
Jacqueline M. Nasser, +12 Oct. 1999	Yvonne Rihbany, +21 October, 2009
Frank Palmer, +16 Oct. 1999	Josephine Nicola, +26 October, 2009
Ghazi Ababseh, +23 Oct. 1999	Eva Bandak, +10 October, 2009
Mitry Saadeh, +Oct. 13	Marion Deeb, +2 October, 2010
Robert Jurado, +24 Oct. 1999	Ghalia Dares, +17 October, 2010
Lillian Saliba Murr +12 October 2000	

Memory Eternal!

Please phone the Church Office if there are any omissions or corrections to the above listing of names. Please bear in mind that some have chosen not to be included in our announcement. Please pardon any errors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October is "Youth Month" in the Antiochian Archdiocese

Our teens are participating in the services each week during the month of October: Reading the Epistle – **Mary Sarchizian**; Ushering – **Sarah Yanni, Leilah Yanni, Samantha Tamoush, Alex Safady, and Michael Safady.**

His twelve disciples and apostles, commissioning them first to preach His Gospel in that land (Matt. 10.6), where he suffered and was resurrected, and where the first Church of Jerusalem was established, from there reaching "all nations." (Matt. 28.19) It is in this region that the first great centers of Christianity were founded and flourished – the Churches of Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Cyprus – and the entire system of the united, undivided Church was instituted.

In this region, the Church of Christ, especially the Orthodox Church, has its deep roots. This region was sanctified by the blood of the martyrs and the tears of the ascetics of the Orthodox faith. No person possesses the moral right to overlook this fact, and every worldly authority is obliged to respect it. The Christians of the Orthodox Churches in that region have lived there for centuries, and no "ethnic cleansing" or "religious purging" can either remove them or in any way impede their free existence or activity without violating the most elementary human rights.

Abiding to the Biblical principle, that "the earth is the Lord's, and all the fullness thereof" (Psalm 23.1), the Orthodox Church has never hindered people of other religious conviction from peacefully coexisting with it in the same region. Even when other religions forcefully acquired the land where it had lived for centuries, it found ways to adapt to and coexist in a peaceful manner with followers of other religions. Intolerance has never characterized the Orthodox Church.

Unfortunately, in our time, the fear of others, of those who are different, has increased and intensified. Christians themselves tend to become victims of this situation, particularly in the region of the Middle East. In many cases, Christians are treated as "second class" citizens. In other cases, their places of worship – which often constitute renowned monuments of civilization – are profaned or destroyed, or else where the performance of religious services and education of clergy are restricted. In addition to all this, occasionally there are examples of assaults of bloody violence against Christians, deriving from extreme circles of religious fanatics. It goes without saying that Christians, too, wherever they may be, are obliged to respect the places of worship and communities of other religions.

participants of the Food-4-Less Food Company Community Rewards program.

Message of the Heads of the ancient Orthodox Patriarchates and the time-honored Autocephalous Church of Cyprus

To the plenitude of their Churches and to all people of good will.

Beloved brothers and sisters, children in the Lord: rejoice in the Lord at all times!

“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess. 1.2-3)

Adhering to the injunction of the Apostle, according to which in the Church of Christ “whenever one member suffers, all members suffer with it; and when one member is honored, all members rejoice with it” (1 Cor. 12.26), we have assembled at the See of the historical and martyric Ecumenical Throne, at the invitation and under the presidency of the first among us in order and honor, in order to experience and declare the love of Christ that binds us (2 Cor. 5.14) at all times, and most especially in times of trial and tribulation.

We have gathered here as those bearing the responsibility for leadership and pastoral guidance of the ancient and historical Churches, which were founded by the Apostles of Christ and which were proclaimed autocephalous by the Ecumenical Councils of the one, undivided Church, in order to revive a former practice, as well as in order to exchange thoughts and reciprocate love and solidarity as a result of all that is occurring these days in the historical territory of the geographical region where divine providence has assigned our Churches from the earliest of times.

By divine providence, the Church of Christ, as historical reality, was born in the land of the so-called Middle East. Its founder and foundation, our Lord Jesus Christ, was born in the flesh in Bethlehem of Judaea (Matt. 2.1), where he chose

Attention teens: Plan to join us following Vespers on at Father Timothy’s home on Saturday, October 15 [21301 Erwin Street, Unit 350 Woodland Hills, California 91367-3786]. Please let us know if you are coming by e-mailing Natalie Malouf at: <gotmoofy@yahoo.com>.

Congratulations!

We sincerely thank Tania Mulry, Superintendent and our Church School staff and parents for their help with last Sunday’s Church School presentation coffee hour. We also thank Mary Ann Coury for her assistance. Congratulations to our children who placed in the Diocesan Creative Festivals and all who participated:

Creative Arts – 3rd grade, **Second Place (tie):** Abigail Abraham and Courtney Meena; 5th grade, **Second Place:** Alexandra Mallouk; 9th Grade, **First Place:** Mary Sarchizian; **Certificates of Participation:** Olivia Abraham, Iain Blair, Junion McLinn, and George Khouri

Creative Writing – 1st grade, **Third Place:** Esshak Sayegh; 2nd grade, **Second Place:** Claire Azzam; 3rd grade, **Second Place:** Jonathan Srour; **Certificates of Participation:** Tamara Barney, George Khouri and Thomas Mulry

Creative Poetry – 1st grade, **Third Place:** Aidan Blair; **Second Place:** Esshak Sayegh, **First Place:** Olivia Abraham

We also want to recognize our children for their Church School attendance last year: **Excellent Attendance:** William Mulry, George Khouri, Iain Blair, Aidan Mulry, Sasha Yazbek, Tamara Barney, Olivia Abraham, Aidan Blair, Thomas Mulry, Abigail Abraham, Britton McLinn, Jr, Esshak Sayegh; **Good Attendance:** Isabella Cruz, Nicholas Azzam, Allie Mallouk, Claire Azzam, Nicholas Mallouk; **Attendance:** Maysun Ababseh, Courtney Meena, Celine Srour, Jonathan Srour, Samantha Tamoush, Leilah Yanni, Van Fichtner, Bria McLinn, Andrew Wassef, Sarah Yanni, Jackson Gascou, Kevin Barney, Brandon Terry, Alyiah Ababseh, Alexandra Turley, Michael Mallouk, Kyla Terry, Sophia Turley, Annie Coury, Marina Coury, Mark Daftari, Emily Meena, Shannon Meena, Nicholas Murr, Alethia Placencia, Tavia Placencia, and Mary Sarchizian.

Antiochian Women's Meeting – today, classroom 5 and 6
Parish Council Meeting – Monday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.

How many personal checks do you write in a month?

Is one of those checks to "St. Michael Church?" More and more parishioners are paying their annual pledge and making church offerings by using their credit card to benefit from gaining "travel miles." For more information, please speak with our Treasurer (Natalie Malouf) or Comptroller (Mary Ann Coury).

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

Oct 09 – The Sadd family
Oct 16 – open
Oct 23 – open

Oct 30 – open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Oct 09 – The Sadd family
Oct 16 – Pat Malouf
Oct 23 – the Abraham, Gascou and Meena families
Oct 30 – Barney, Hanks, Yazbek, Soltaniazad and Saadeh families

Please contact Father Timothy (818/219-3761; pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread for any of the open upcoming Sundays. Contact Frieda Kabbash (818)707-6478; frieda702@aol.com to host the Coffee Hour.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Wednesdays and Fridays are observed as days of fasting]

Feast of the Holy Apostle Thomas – Thursday, October 6th

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost and Third Sunday of Luke

Saturday, October 8th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 9th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

NOTICE

Father Timothy will be attending the Diocesan Fall Gathering in Mesa, Arizona on Friday, October 7 and returning late on Saturday, October 8. Great Vespers is not being cancelled for Saturday and will begin at the usual time, 5 p.m.

2011 Parish Directory

Have you received your Parish Directory (one per family)? Additional Directories are available for \$2/copy. Please see Father Timothy.

For Planning Ahead . . .

Mark Your Calendar (see foyer bulletin board for more information)

IOCC Southern California Walk-a-thon – Saturday, October 22nd
Check in: 10 a.m., start: 11 a.m., lunch: 11:30 a.m. (Arcadia County Park)

St. Andrew Church Consecration (Riverside, CA) Saturday, December 3
Orthros, 9 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m. followed by Banquet

Al-Kafa-at Dinner – Saturday, November 5th
St. Nicholas Cathedral Heritage Ballroom (\$75/person)
for tickets please contact Sondra Love <slove1@socal.rr.com>

St. Michael Feast Day Celebration – Sunday, November 13, 2011

St. Nicholas Cathedral Feast Day Celebration – Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011

Church School Christmas Program – Sunday, December 11, 2011

Ralph's Community Contribution Program

Participant registration for the New Year began on September 1, 2011. All participants are required to re-register for the new year at: www.Ralphs.com or by using the scan bar (below) at the cash register. St. Michael new sign-ups - #80775. Notice: This does not apply to