
2012 Pledge Forms

A Pledge Form is enclosed with this bulletin and must be completed by each family for the new calendar year. Please take the time to prayerfully consider your new pledge essential for our 2012 budget planning. You may turn in your forms by handing it in to our Comptroller: Mary Ann Coury or mailing it in to the Church Office at your earliest convenience.

Christmas Toy Collection

We will again be collecting new toys and children's clothing to be given to children of prisoners and the homeless. The toys should not include guns or require batteries. We especially need sports items: soccer balls, basketballs, and games for the children. All financial contributions should be turned in no later than Sunday, December 4th, and all toys should be at the church by the date of our Christmas Program – December 11th. All toys and clothing will be distributed by Father Duane Pedersen of the Archdiocese Prison Ministry who hopes to be with us on December 11th. Please contact DeAnne Abraham <dmarieabe@aol.com> should you have any questions.

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Nov 20 – Kabbash and Ruff families
The Abdun-Nur family
Nov 27 – Kitty Komashko
Dec 04 – The Malouf family
Dec 11 – open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Nov 20 – Charlotte Murr
Nov 27 – Kitty Komashko
Dec 04 – The Malouf family
Dec 11 – Church School Program

Please contact Father Timothy (pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org)

to sign-up to offer Holy Bread for any of the open upcoming Sundays.
Contact Frieda Kabbash (frieda702@aol.com) to host the Coffee Hour.

St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople and the Eighth Sunday of Luke

Venerable Martyrs Damaskinos and Damian of the Great Lavra on Athos

Sunday, November 13, 2011

Tone 5; Eothinon 11

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion of St. John Chrysostom (Tone 8)

Grace shining forth from thy mouth like a beacon hath illumined the universe and disclosed to the world treasures of uncovetousness, and shown us the heights of humility; but whilst instructing us by thy words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede with the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

Apolytikion for our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 4)

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the highest powers.

Kontakion of the Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone 4)

[In anticipation of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos: November 21st]

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the divine Spirit: whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for St. John Chrysostom)

*My mouth shall speak of wisdom;
and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding
Hear this, all ye people.*

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (7:26 – 8:2)

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son Who has been made perfect forever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a High Priest, one Who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

THE GOSPEL (The Eighth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (10:25-37)

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read?” And the lawyer answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And Jesus said to him, “You have answered right; do this, and you will live.” But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he

For Planning Ahead . . .

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

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

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

Church School Christmas Program – Sunday, December 11, 2011

Special Parish Meeting

A **very short** Parish Meeting will take place immediately following Liturgy next Sunday for the purpose of accepting nominations for three Parish Council vacancies for the New Year. The nominees include at least three names submitted by the Nominations Committee. Additional nominees of qualified members will be received from the floor. The Parish Council vacancies will be filled by nominees elected for three (3) three year terms, beginning on January 1, 2012. All nominees must be at least twenty-five years of age or older, have been a pledging member of the parish for at least one year and have fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Faith [Article VI, Sec. 2]. Please see Father Timothy should you have any questions.

THE CHRISTMAS FAST – ADVENT

The Church ordains that this preparation begins on November 15. The Fast is forty days long and is sometimes known as Phillip’s Fast because it begins the day after November 14, which is dedicated to St. Phillip the Apostle.

The Fast has very ancient origins. Leo the Great, in the Fifth Century, made mention of it as an ancient, established Fast, which gave importance to the event of the Birth of Christ by the Church, even at that time. The Christians Church did not universally observe the Fast in length and method until the Council of Constantinople in 1166 AD. It was at that Council that the ancient regulations and various customs and traditions of the churches were studied and forty days was chosen to be most representative.

Many of us want the Feast without the penitential note that precedes it. We want Christmas without Advent. The result is that most of us only “observe” the day of Christmas and fail to “keep” the day holy. The Christmas fast gives us time to meditate upon the meaning of our Lord’s coming (God born as a man) – in the past, present, and future. Only to the extent that we prepare carefully for His Coming can we receive Him worthily. Hence, as Christmas approaches, we should be aware of the meaning of the Christmas fast (Advent) upon us and our souls. Consciences need examination; sins need to be forgiven. Above all, souls need refreshment with His Sacramental Presence when the Christmas Fast ends and Christ is born.

This Year Christmas will be Celebrated on Saturday – Sunday

The schedule of services for the Feast of the Holy Nativity (Christmas) will include: The Vespereal Liturgy of the *Paramon* [Pre-Feast], (Christmas Eve) Saturday, December 24th at 3 p.m., and The Liturgy of the Feast of Christmas (Christmas Day) Sunday, December 25th, 10 a.m., preceded by Orthros and the Christmas Canon at 8:45 a.m.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Note: The **Fast for the Holy Nativity** begins on Tuesday, November 15 and is divided into two periods: 1) November 15 through December 19, the traditional fasting discipline is observed (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil), except on Tuesdays and Thursdays when wine and oil are permitted, and on Saturdays and Sundays when fish, wine and oil are allowed. It should be noted that some allow for fish on all days except Wednesdays and Fridays from November 15 to December 18; 2) December 20 through 24, traditional fasting is observed on all days except on Saturday and Sunday when wine and oil are permitted.]

Feast of the Holy Apostle Matthew – Wednesday, November 16

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost and 9th Sunday of Luke and the Forefeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple
Saturday, November 19th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.
Sunday, November 20th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple
Monday, November 21st

[Note: The Feast will be celebrated on Sunday, November 20]

Parish Council Meeting – tomorrow, 7:30 p.m.

saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Synaxarion

On November 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate our Father among the Saints John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople.

Verses

*John the golden, having closed up his mouth,
as another mouth hath left us his books.
On the thirteenth the golden lips fell silent.*

He was born in Antioch in 347. John became disgusted with Hellenic paganism and turned to the Christian faith as the one, all-embracing truth. He wrote a book, *On the Priesthood*, after which the holy Apostles John and Peter appeared to him, prophesying for him great service, great grace and also great suffering. Thus, John ran from his priestly ordination, but was eventually led back to receive that grace. Emperor Arcadius chose John as Archbishop of Constantinople. But John was so beloved in Antioch that he had to be sneaked out at night to avoid a revolt of the people. He governed the Church at Constantinople for six years with unequalled zeal and wisdom, purging the Church of simony and deposing many bishops who were given to selling the sacraments. He extended the Church's charitable works, wrote a rite for the Holy Liturgy, put heretics to shame, interpreted the Scriptures with his golden mind and tongue and left to the Church many precious books of

sermons, still extant. The people glorified him; the jealous loathed him; the Empress twice sent him into exile. He died in exile on Holy Cross Day, September 14, 407, in Comana in Armenia. As he received Communion for the last time, John said: "Glory to God for all things!" Then, his righteous soul entered Paradise.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable martyrs Damaskinos and Damian of the Great Lavra on Athos. *By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

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.

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.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread and wheat* are being offered this morning by the Sayegh family for the forty-day memorial of the newly-departed servant of God, Eshak Sayegh (+10 October, 2011), beloved husband, father and grandfather. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread and the Five Loaves for the Feast are being offered this morning by Father Timothy Baclig with prayers for his son, Michael o' Kalani, who celebrated his Feast Day (November 8). May God keep him, Rebekah, Andrew, James and Katherine in good health and may St. Michael ever guard and protect them.

Holy Bread is being offered with prayers for the good health and happiness of Rima Hage celebrating her birthday today (November 13). We wish you a happy birthday and pray for God's continued blessings upon you. We love you! Ramez, Teddy, April, Steven, Erin and the five grandchildren.

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

for the six-month memorial of Hiam Khoury (+16 May, 2011), by her beloved husband, Nail Khoury and daughters, Lana and Amy. Memory eternal.

for the repose of the newly-departed, Lorana Sweet (+10 November, 2011), beloved mother of Daniel Barney. Memory eternal.

for the speedy recovery and continued health of Mary Wassef who was recently hospitalized.

by the Sadd family on the occasion of the birthdays of Leilah Lewin (November 2nd) and Charlotte Lechlak (November 14th). May God continue to bless them with good health and happiness.

for the continued health of Michael B. Maloof.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teen SOYO Raffle and Bake Sale

Tickets for our Annual Teen SOYO Holiday Raffle are available each Sunday until the date of the drawing, Sunday, December 11, 2011, during our Church School Christmas Program. Proceeds from the raffle will help Teen SOYO sponsor the Special Olympics at the Antiochian Village.

Please join our Teen SOYO Bake Sale on Sunday, November 20 after Liturgy in the hall. We will be selling cupcakes, cookies, brownies, muffins, etc. Support our teens by participating in this fundraiser. If you have a special request, please let us know at: <gotmoofy@yahoo.com>.