

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406 **stmichaelvannuys.org**

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of all North America www.antiochian.org
Archpriest Timothy Baclig, Pastor pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org
Rev. Fr. Minas Sarchizian, Assisting Priest fatherminas@gmail.com
Rev. Deacon Andrew Monsue armcopper@gmail.com
Subdeacon Richard Tamoush richard@aaafalg.com
Subdeacon Magued Wassef wassefm@msn.com
Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Pastoral Assistant rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.com
Parish Council Chair - Michael Mitchell mgmitchell3@gmail.com
Council Vice-Chair - Carrie Sadd Khouri carrieskhouri@gmail.com
Council Secretary - Eric Nelson ericnelson2520@sbcglobal.net
Council Treasurer - Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla cmatthews46@yahoo.com
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of No. America (AOCWNA)
Chapter President - Charmaine Darmour cdarmour@sbcglobal.net
Church Comptroller - Mary Ann Coury maryanncoury@aol.com
Choir Director - Art Danks artdanks1@yahoo.com
Church School Director - Anna Rowe afarha@stmichaelvannuys.org
Youth Director - Cooper Rowe crowe31@gmail.com
Young Adult Director - Richard Ajalat rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org
Faithtree Resources Exec. Director - Michelle Moujaes michelle@faithtree.org
Project Manager - Michael J. Malouf michael@jacksonia.com
Stewardship Chair - Richard Tamoush richard@AAAFLAG.COM
Capital Funds Campaign Chair - Ron Zraick ronaldzraick@gmail.com
Property Management Chair - Eric Nelson ericnelson2520@sbcglobal.net
Bookstore Manager - Bobbi Monsue bobbi_monsue@att.net
50th Anniversary Co-Chair - Don Meena donmeena@sbcglobal.net
Golf Classic Chair - Fred Milkie milkief@aol.com
Webmaster - Arlette Hania arly74@hotmail.com
Coffee Hour Coordinator - Cindy Tamoush famtam5@socal.rr.com
Head Usher - Ramez Hage jeddo.ramez@gmail.com

The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost and the Fifth Sunday of Luke

The Venerable Ioanikios the Great of Mount Olympus;
Hieromartyrs Nicander the Bishop of Myra and Hermas the Priest;
Martyr Porphyrios of Ephesus; Emperor John the Merciful

Sunday, November 4, 2018

Tone 6; Eothinon 1

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion for St. Ioanikios the Great (Tone 8)

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundred-fold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father Ioanikios, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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

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 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 (for the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (2:4-10)

Brethren, God, Who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast. For, we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

THE GOSPEL (for the Fifth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (16:19-31)

The Lord said, “There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said,

‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

The Synaxarion

On November 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate our righteous father Ioanikios the Great of Mount Olympus.

Verses

The Word, Who with a word fixed the earth’s foundation,
Up from the earth Ioanikios now taketh.
On the fourth they dug thee a grave, O Ioanikios.

The great spiritual light Ioanikios was born in the village of Marycata in the province of Bithynia. As a youth, he was a shepherd. While tending his sheep, he would often retreat into solitude and remain in prayer the whole day, encircling his flock with the sign of the Cross so that the flock would not stray and scatter. Later, he was taken into the army and displayed marvelous courage. Following his military service, Ioanikios withdrew to Mount Olympus in Asia Minor, where he was tonsured a monk and dedicated himself completely to asceticism until his repose at age 94 in the year 846. He lived in asceticism for over fifty years in various places, and received from God a truly abundant gift of wonderworking.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyrs Nicander the bishop of Myra and Hermias the priest; Martyr Porphyrios of Ephesus; and Emperor John the merciful. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, 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.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered and the coffee hour hosted this morning by the Mitchell and Ayoub family with prayers for Michael Mitchell celebrating his 50th birthday. May God grant him many years. Prayers are also offered in memory of Emil Ayoub (+15 November, 2016) and Gretta Casalnuovo (+30 October, 2016). Memory eternal.

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

for the continued health of John Tambouras.

by Constantine Nasr for the healing of Evie Swierczynski and the strength of her parents: Duane & Meredith.

for the continued health of Nicholas Saadeh.

for the successful surgery of Anita Chala.

by Marcia O'Dea for the good health of her brother Abdalla.

by Samia Habib for the well being and good health of Donald Thurman.

by Sharon Katerelos for the repose of her friend and neighbor, David Bowden (+28 October, 2018). Memory eternal.

by Anita Chala for the good health of James Otto.

lovingly offered by Mae Tortolano and family for the happiness and well-being of brother Emile Skaff on the occasion of his 85th birthday (November 6th) Koul sinni wa inta salim.

Included in our prayers throughout the month of November are those celebrating their birthday: Claire Mike Azzam (11/1), Michael Mitchell (11/2), Leilah Sadd (11/2), Nabeel Abughazaleh (11/3), Cooper Hage (11/3), Andy Monsue (11/3), Adriana Azzam (11/4), Jack Nasser (11/4), Sandi Gorup (11/5), Judith Aboud (11/6), Sadie Heidi Blair (11/6), Diana Dunphy (11/6), Sean O'Dea (11/6), Emile F. Skaff, Sr. (11/6), Laila Abughazaleh (11/7), Denise Akoury (11/7), Michael Mansur (11/8), Henry John Phipps (11/8), Randy Ababseh (11/9), Stephen Nassief (11/10), Steven Srour (11/10), Elias Nabeel Abughazaleh (11/11), Richard Chala (11/11), Anne Marie Botezatu (11/12), Rima Hage

(11/13), Dennis Haggar (11/13), Gloria Kabbash (11/13), Charlotte Lechlak (11/14), V. Rev. Constantine Nasr (11/14), Steve Ababseh (11/16), Stephen Riad Dunphy (11/16), Joe Sweis (11/17), Sam Yanni (11/19), Geri Thabit (11/20), James Alexander Wei (11/21), Natalie Roser (11/24), Marcia Murr Terry (11/24), Justina Sarah Wassef (11/24), Alice Andrews (11/26), William Joshua Nassir (11/26), Elias Adeeb Abughazaleh (11/27), Samer Abughazaleh (11/27), William Fichtner (11/27), Orit Srour (11/27), Sharon Katerelos (11/28), Justina Wassef (11/28), Keira Katherine Placeres (11/29), Thomas Akoury (11/30), and those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Daniel & Katherine Foyle (11/3), Jeffery & Danielle Thomas (11/4), Jay & Hanan Coury (11/9), Elie & Natacha Yazbek (11/21). May God grant them all many years!

Included in our prayers for the departed for the month of November are:

Jamele Koekaz, +16 Nov. 1961	Nisrin Sayegh, +29 Nov. 2002
Arthur Grob, +7 Nov. 1978	Joseph Mmona, +14 Nov. 2003
Adla Gallade, +17 Nov. 1982	Louis Edwards, +17 Nov. 2003
Joseph Khamis, +Nov. 1988	Alexandra Khoury, +25 Nov. 2003
Najib Spiridon, +5 Nov. 1989	Mary Hart, +3 Nov., 2005
Joey Bicker, +20 Nov. 1990	Wadih Latif, +28 Nov. 2005
Genevieve Akoury, +23 Nov. 1990	John Peters, +15 Nov. 2006
Earle J. Thompson, +25 Nov. 1990	Donald Andrew Nassir, +28 Nov. 06
Cleo Saliba, +3 Nov. 1993	Sumaya Khoury, +30 Nov. 2006
Adele Nicholas, +20 Nov. 1993	David Habeeb, +2 Nov. 2007
George Musalam, +4 Nov. 1994	Anton Karam, +19 Nov. 2007
Olga Handal, +7 Nov. 1994	Lucille Deeb, +24 Nov. 2007
Stephen Stelmack, +14 Nov. 1994	Samy Srour, +31 Nov. 2007
Watfa Berry, +21 Nov. 1988	Evelyn Haddad, +27 Nov. 2009
Elia Baida, +6 Nov. 1995	Laila Kabbash, +17 Nov. 2010
Katherine Monsue, +18 Nov. 1996	George Komashko, +24 Nov. 2010
Elena Farah, +15 Nov. 1997	Genevieve Antoniewicz, +25 Nov. 2010
Carim J. Rihbany, +2 Nov. 1973	Lorana Sweet, +10 Nov. 2011
Robert Nassief, +9 Nov. 1998	Azenagash Woldemichael, +26 Nov. 12
Toufic Sweis, +10 Nov. 1998	Helen Zaki, +16 Nov. 2013
Vida Hapip, +14 Nov. 1998	Jose Noel Barba, +20 Nov. 2013
George Weisfuss, +17 Nov. 1998	Savinita Abdennour, +20 Nov. 2013
Helen Rihbany, +6 Nov. 1999	Nour Iskander Ayoub, +2 Nov. 2014

Jamileh Sawalha, +2 Nov. 1999
Odeh Kassis, +11 Nov. 2000
Saide Simon, +13 Nov. 2000
Saide Mbarake, +27 Nov. 2001
Marie Nasser, +20 Nov. 2001
Don Coury, +29 Nov. 2002

Charles Stockstill, +2 Nov. 2015
David L. Obenhaus, Sr., +5 Nov. 2015
Dr. Mitchel Thabit, +30 Nov. 2015
Emil Ayoub, +14 Nov., 2016
John Bidwell, +25 Nov., 2016
Sid Kraker, +27 Nov., 2016
Thomas Tongate, +9 Nov., 2017

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.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Feast of our Patron, Michael the Holy Archangel - November 8
Vesperal Liturgy, Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 p.m.

Holy Martyr Menas of Egypt; and The 8th Sunday of Luke
Saturday, November 10, Great Vespers, 5 p.m

Sunday, November 11 - Orthros, 8:45 a.m.,

Service of the Five Loaves,

Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m. followed by our Parish Feast Day Luncheon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, November 12th, 7 p.m.

Don't miss your chance to include your special message in the St. Michael 50th Anniversary Journal. The deadline is December 1st.

The 50th Anniversary Journal Committee is working hard to assemble the pictures, people, letters, and stories that will commemorate the history of St. Michael. We have had lots of interest from parishioners and friends of St. Michael from around the country who want to remember and celebrate family and friends in this historic Journal. If you and your family would like to place a special message in the 50th Anniversary Journal, see

Samia Habib during coffee hour or go to the St. Michael Website www.stmichaelvannuys.org and click on the Events tab. The deadline to submit Journal forms is December 1, 2018. Remember, every family attending the 50th Anniversary Banquet will receive a copy of the Journal, and copies will be mailed to all contributors who are not able to join us. Your generous support of the Anniversary Journal will help us make a fine keepsake that you will cherish for years to come and will help make the Anniversary Banquet a successful and memorable event.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Charity Food Collection

This year, our parish will again be assisting a local food pantry ("Loaves and Fishes") in their new Van Nuys location. Please phone Cindy Tamoush at: 818-345-4363 if you are able to participate in our Thanksgiving and/or Christmas food collection. There are a few ways of participating:

1. If you wish for me to shop for you, just write a check made out to: "St. Michael Church," earmarked: "Holiday Food Collection." You will be credited on your year-end Financial Statement for tax purposes.
2. You can purchase grocery script for any amount. Don't forget to use your Ralph's Rewards Card so St. Michael may also benefit from your purchase.
3. Due to their lack of space, Loaves and Fishes is requesting any of the following: bottled water, personal care items, deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary napkins and disposable razors, socks (for men and women), Any store scripts in denominations of \$5 or \$10. Please do not provide any clothing or household items.

All items must be brought to our church kitchen by Sunday, November 18 and/or Sunday, December 16. Thank you for your support.

Parish Council Nominations

On Sunday, November 18, 2018 we will be holding a brief Special Meeting of the Voting Membership solely for the purpose of receiving and accepting nominations for Parish Council members to be elected for there (3), three-year terms (January, 2019 to December, 2021). At this

meeting the Nominations Committee will present their report and additional nominations will be open from the floor. It is important that persons being considered be able to fulfill the commitment to serve. Therefore it is necessary that all nominees first be personally asked if they would accept nomination, and second be approved by the Pastor as someone who is qualified. The Parish Constitution prescribes that all nominees must be at least twenty-five years of age or older, have been a pledging members of the parish for at least one year and have fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Faith [Article VI, Sec. 2]. The nominees must also be committed in attending monthly Parish Council meetings held on the third (3rd) Sunday of each month. We sincerely thank Eric Nelson [ending his seventh consecutive year; able to be appointed for a one-year term]; Richard Ajalat [electable; appointed to complete the first (1st) term of the late, Caren Deeb Kouri]; and Richard Tamoush [completing his first (1st) term; re-electable]. Our three (3) one-year appointed members whose terms are expiring are: David Alexander [first year appointed], Amy Castillo [second year appointed], and Regan Hines [first year appointed]. The Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: November 25 and December 2. Council members whose terms are unexpired are: Joe Ayoub, Carrie Sadd Khouri, Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla, Adam Lamar, Michael Mitchell, and Deacon Andrew Monsue. Charmaine Darmour is also completing her eighth (8th) consecutive year as President of the Antiochian Women.

Upcoming Events (see the foyer bulletin board for more information)

Educational Forum on Human Trafficking - Sunday, November 4;
St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church (Pasadena), 4 p.m.

St. Michael Feast Day Luncheon - Sunday, November 11, 2018

Holy Virgin Mary (OCA) Cathedral (Los Angeles) Annual Slavic Festival
Sunday, November 11, 2018; 12 noon to 4 p.m

IOCC Dinner and Presentation - Sunday, November 11, 2018

St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church (Pasadena)

Speaker: John McKinney, "Hiking the Holy Mountain"

\$35/adults; \$10/18 and under; Tickets: ioccc.org/la

Special Meeting of the Voting Membership - Sunday, November 18, 2018
Election of three (3) Parish Council vacancies:
Sunday, November 25 and Sunday, December 2.

St. Michael Church School Christmas Program Rehearsal and Program
Saturday-Sunday, December 8-9, 2018

St. Michael Church 50th Anniversary Celebration with His Eminence,
Metropolitan JOSEPH - Saturday and Sunday, January 26-27, 2019

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Nov 07 - Feastday Liturgy - open

Nov 11 - open

Nov 18 - open

Nov 25 - open

Dec 02 - the Azzam/Hallak families

Dec 09 - open

Dec 16 - the Meena family

Nov 11 - St. Michael Feast Day Luncheon

Nov 18 - Laila Abughazaleh

Nov 25 - The Sweiss Family

Dec 02 - the Azzam/Hallak families

Dec 09 - Church School Christmas Luncheon

Dec 16 - the Meena family

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and
Cindy Tamoush at: (818-345-4363; famtam5@socal.rr.com) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.

PLAN TO CELEBRATE ST. MICHAEL DAY!

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

after The Divine Liturgy

A Family Friendly Meal Featuring...

Mezza (hummus, olives, pickled turnips), Chicken, Rice,
Salad, a Vegetable dish plus desserts & beverages

Tickets: \$10 for adults \$7 children 12 & under
Family ticket of 2 adults and 1 or more children: \$25



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Statement on the Recent Attack on the Tree of Life
Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America expresses its deep sympathies as we mourn the loss of innocent lives and pray for the speedy recovery of those wounded in the recent attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Remembering the Message from our Assembly meeting just last month, we reiterate our “denunciation of all violence, whether caused by senseless acts related to weapons and shootings or instigated by abhorrent acts of discrimination and prejudice.”

Indeed the heinous and murderous act of terror on October 27, 2018 sprang from a place of deep prejudice against people and religion. We unequivocally condemn this rampage as a sin against the local community, religion, and humanity.

We call upon all Christians and all people of good will to stand in solidarity with the families of the victims and the survivors. We pray fervently to the Almighty God for the spiritual healing of the entire congregation and community, especially those in Pittsburgh. In this era of frequent and unprecedented attacks on basic freedoms, especially freedom of religion, it is through love and harmony that hearts might be softened and transformed. For only through love will evil be neutralized, violence cease, and peace prevail.

“O Lord, I Have Loved the Beauty of Thy House” (LXX Psalm 25:7) Part Thirteen

The following article is the thirteenth of a series of writings by His Grace, Bishop BASIL that helps us to understand how the relationship between the art, architecture and music of the Orthodox Church communicates the presence of the Kingdom of God in this world.

Orthodox people in America find themselves within a culture of competition and consumerism. It is a mass media “throw away” culture where everyone without exception is constantly bombarded with visual and audial enticements to buy and experience a plethora of products. Within this culture, architecture plays a vital role because it is known to be a means of drawing consumers: people who want to “consume” in environments that cater to their particular needs or desires at the time of their “consumption.”

In this consumerist society, modern and post-modern architecture has developed resulting from an architect’s relationship between art and architecture. Since the invention of the camera, art has shifted from realism to the abstract, from objective art to subjective art. Architecture has followed suit because of the traditional link between the two disciplines. Architecture, like art, has shifted from content to form, from product to process, and the result is often an abstract or “arty” building which can be called “consumer architecture.” It is an architecture that has been developed to cater to our consumerist culture. Buildings are designed in unique styles because it is known that visibility translates into money.

Contemporary architectural thought has the foundational belief that there are no constraints from the past that must necessarily influence the architectural designs of the present or the future. The traditional idea that “form follows function” has been deemed archaic, and the result is an architectural free-for-all. Peter Eisenman, a renown contemporary architect, for example, said that his houses are not shaped for his clients needs but are “designed to shake them out of those needs!” Buildings are purposefully designed in such a way that they will glorify the architect, the client, or the potential consumer.

Within our culture, “religion” is also a commodity to be packaged and sold — resulting in church designs that could serve no different from schools,

restaurants, office buildings or sports complexes. The majority of the architects of today prefer to wallow in “fashionable tide pools” rather than immerse themselves in mainstream or “traditional” architectural understandings. Very few architects would have the desire to have more than a superficial understanding of the Orthodox faith before attempting a design, and this where the problem lies. Without a sensitivity to and respect for the *ethos* of our faith (both on the part of the architect and the client) churches will be designed in such a way that they are either caricatures of Orthodox churches or buildings that are completely antithetical to our faith — buildings where “creativity” has been used in such a way that is outside our architectural Tradition.

Many contemporary style Orthodox church designs are ones which do not witness to the reality of the richness of the life in Christ that is experienced in the Orthodox Church. They are unfortunate designs that do not glorify God as much as they glorify the architect or the “in-step with society” nature of the persons who worship in them. Furthermore, churches which are designed from the world-view of a consumerist culture present a compromised view of the place of the Church in the world. The church building is no longer an image of God’s Kingdom toward which the Church leads the world but, rather, is the opposite: an image of that fallen world toward which the Church is being led.

Most of these contemporary designs are ones that will, in a few decades become dated. Contemporary architecture is relatively easy to do because it is usually entirely subjective. Truly original (non-replica) Orthodox architecture is more difficult — but worth the effort. It requires an adjustment of our world-view from that which is common to a consumerist culture to a world-view that is common to the Church: a world-view that understands the Church to be the place in this fallen world where life has been restored and is experienced as blessed and saved through Jesus Christ. [End of Part XIII]

PASTORAL SERMON
The Fifth Sunday of Luke
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
November 2, 2018

The lesson of the Fifth Sunday of Luke is among the lessons which introduce us to the season of Advent, preparing us for the Feast which celebrates the birth of our Lord. It focuses our attention upon the practice of good deeds reminding us of God's love and personal sacrifice by sending His Son into the world.

In our time there is a great deal of attention being given to the subject of wealth and poverty. St. John Chrysostom spoke at length on the subject. His writing is available in English, published by St. Vladimir's Press, entitled: On Wealth and Poverty.

People whose lives are either shaped by wealth or poverty manifest certain attitudes and behavior. Significant attitudes and behavior can also be evident among those whose lives move from poverty to wealth and from wealth to poverty. Very often whether or not someone worked to earn his or her wealth, or simply inherited wealth is very telling. For Christian believers, the core virtue in the case of both – which is the true test of one's sincerity is humility. Humility as a virtue is the foundation of Christian love. It is the basis of a "good confession" and the true motive of love. Its opposite is: arrogance, selfishness, greed and hatred – all of which we are warned about by our Tradition, beginning with Christ, the Apostles, and the Holy Fathers. That warning comes with pointing to consequences.

We also hear in the Gospel our Lord's own warning: "To whom much has been given – much will be required." Money will not buy you everything. Sadly, there are many who think the opposite. It amazes me how some have believed that pouring millions into a political campaign will guarantee an election. People are not as naïve as some would think. It is sad to think what all of that money could do to help those who are now facing incredible suffering.

The parable of *The Rich Man and Lazarus* of today's Gospel lesson is in two parts: 1) the life of the rich man and Lazarus on earth, and 2) their life after death.

The two are contrasted to make the following points: First that there is an eternal perspective to life. That eternal perspective gives us a sobriety with an understanding that in this life there is a spiritual quality of life that is acquired whether a person is wealthy or in poverty

In commenting on the parable St. Gregory the Great speaks of the affects of poverty and riches to the rich man and Lazarus: *The fire of poverty cleansed Lazarus of his **evil deeds**, and the happiness of this passing life rewarded the **good deeds** of the rich man. Poverty afflicted [Lazarus] and wiped him clean; wealth rewarded the [rich man] and deprived him of everything else.*

In a commentary by St. Ambrose we hear: *Lazarus was a pauper [one of extreme poverty and lived by charity] in this world, but [was] a rich man before God . . . Yet not all poverty is holy nor is wealth sinful, but as excess dishonors riches, so sanctity commends poverty.*

One's eternal destiny, therefore, is something that begins in this life, and our stewardship of material things – whether with abundance or poverty has a direct affect on our spiritual life. The message at the beginning of Great Lent is very similar: *What doth it profit a man if he were to gain the whole world and loose his own soul?* Just as we were reminded before the Great Lent that insofar as we are merciful to others, so will our Father in heaven be merciful to us; and that doing good to the needy is the same as having done a good deed to the Lord, so at the start of the Fast of the coming season, and at a time of the year when we are commemorate our nations many blessings at Thanksgiving, we are again reminded that merciful kindness, Christian charity, and love are among the spiritual virtues that save us from needless agony and eternal torment.

Prayer

O Lord, our God of love and great mercies, we thank Thee for your goodness in providing for all of our needs. Purify our hearts and minds from all forms of selfishness, neglect, and arrogance. Grant us the vision to see and to understand the meaning of your Gospel message as we gather about your table and anticipate dining in your heavenly kingdom. Forgive us our sins of omission and renew in us the desire to serve others as serving Thee. For Thou art He who came to serve and not to be served, and unto Thee do we ascribe thanksgiving and worship, together with Thy Father who is from everlasting and Thine all-Holy good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

VENERABLE IOANIKIOS THE GREAT OF MOUNT OLYMPUS

HIEROMARTYRS NICANDER THE BISHOP OF MYRA AND HERMIAS THE PRIEST;

MARTYR PORPHYRIOS OF EPHESUS; EMPEROR JOHN THE MERCIFUL

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن السادس

إنّ القواتِ الملائكية ظهرت عند قبرك الموقرِ، فالحراسُ صاروا كالأمواتِ، ومريم وقفت عند القبرِ طالبةً جسّدك الطاهرِ، فسبيبتَ الجحيمَ ولم تُجربَ منها، وصادفتَ البتولَ مانحاً الحياةَ، فيا من قام من بين الأمواتِ، يا ربَّ المجدُّ لك

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيها المتقدّمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسّل إليكم نحن غير المستحقّين، حتّى أنكم بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظلّ أجنحةٍ مجدكم غير الهولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجاثين والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القواتِ العلوية.

للبريّة غير المُنمّرة، بمجاري دموعك أمّرت. وبالتنّهات التي من الأعماق، أنمّرت بأتعايك إلى مئة ضِعْفٍ. فصرتَ كوكباً للمسكونة متألّلاً بالعجائبِ، يا أبانا البارَّ يوانيكوس، فتشفعْ إلى المسيح الإله أن يُخلصَ نفوسنا.

قنداق السيدة على اللحن الثاني

يا شفيعة المسيحيين غير المخدولة، المتوسطة لدى الخالق غير المردودة، لا تعرضي عن أصوات طلباتنا نحن الخطاة، بل تداركينا بالمعونة بما أنك صالحة نحن الصارخين إليك بإيمان: بادري إلى الشفاعة وأسرعِي في الطلبة، يا والدة الإله المتشفعة دائماً في مكرميك

الإنجيل المقدس

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شِعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاتِكَ
إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُحْ إِلَهِي

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل أفسس

(2:4-10)

يا إخوة، إنَّ اللهَ لِكُونِهِ غَنِيًّا بِالرَّحْمَةِ، وَمِنْ أَجْلِ كَثْرَةِ مَحَبَّتِهِ الَّتِي أَحَبَّنَا بِهَا * حِينَ كُنَّا أَمْوَاتًا بِالزَّلَّاتِ، أَحْيَانَا مَعَ الْمَسِيحِ. (فَإِنَّكُمْ بِالنِّعْمَةِ مُخَلَّصُونَ) * وَأَقَامَنَا مَعَهُ، وَأَجَلَسْنَا مَعَهُ فِي السَّمَاوِيَّاتِ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ * لِيُظْهِرُ فِي الدَّهْرِ الْمُسْتَقْبَلَةِ فَرْطَ غِنَى نِعْمَتِهِ، بِاللِّطْفِ بِنَا فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ * فَإِنَّكُمْ بِالنِّعْمَةِ مُخَلَّصُونَ، بِوَاسِطَةِ الْإِيمَانِ. وَذَلِكَ لَيْسَ مِنْكُمْ، إِنَّمَا هُوَ عَطِيَّةُ اللَّهِ * وَلَيْسَ مِنَ الْأَعْمَالِ، لِئَلَّا يَفْتَخَرَ أَحَدٌ * لِأَنَّا نَحْنُ صُنْعُهُ، مَخْلُوقِينَ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ لِلْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ، الَّتِي سَبَقَ اللَّهُ فَعَادَهَا لِنَسَلِكَ فِيهَا.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا

قال الرب كان رجلٌ غني يلبس الأرجوان والثياب الفاخرة و يقيم الولائم كل يوم. وكان رجلٌ فقيرٌ اسمه لعازر مطروحا عند بابهِ، مُصابا بالقروح، وكان يشتهي أن يشبع من فضلات مائدة الغني، وكانت الكلابُ تجيء وتلحس قروحه. ومات الفقيرُ فنقلته الملائكةُ إلى حضنِ إبراهيم، ومات الغني ودُفن. فرفع الغني عينيه إلى السماء وهو في الجحيم يقاسي العذاب، فرأى إبراهيم عن بعدٍ ولعازر في حضنهِ، فنادى: رُحماك، يا أبي إبراهيم، أرسلْ لعازر ليبلِّ طرفَ إصبعه في الماءِ ويبردَ لساني، لأنني أتعذب كثيرا في هذا اللهب. فقال له إبراهيم تذكرُ يا ابني، انك نلت خيراتك في حياتك، ونال لعازر البلبايا. وها هو الآن يتعزى وأنت تتعذب. وفوق كل هذا فبيننا وبينكم أقيمت هوةٌ عميقة لا يقدر أحدٌ ان يجتازها من عندنا إليكم، ولا من عندكم إلينا. فقال الغني: أسألك، يا أبي إبراهيم، أن ترسلْ لعازر إلى بيت أبي لينذرَ اخوتي الخمسة هناك، لئلا يصيروا إلى هذا الجحيم. فقال له إبراهيم: عندهم موسى والأنبياء، فليستمعوا إليهم. فأجابه الغني: لا يا أبي إبراهيم، ولكن إن قام واحدٌ من الأموات وذهب إليهم يتوبون. فقال إبراهيم: إن لم يستمعوا إلى موسى والأنبياء، فهم لن يفتنعوا ولو قام واحدٌ من الأنبياء.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، إلا ان المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضوا. فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية