

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

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The Feast of the Theophany of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ

Sunday, January 6, 2018

This morning's Liturgy includes the prayers of St. Basil the Great. The origin of the Liturgy of St. Basil is Antiochian, specifically from Cappadocia where St. Basil was bishop. This Liturgy contains over 260 Biblical references within its prayers. The Liturgy of St. Basil appears to be older than St. John Chrysostom's perhaps by two centuries. It was known to be the standard weekly liturgy at the Great Church of Constantinople up until the sixth century, when St. John Chrysostom's Liturgy began being more commonly used.

There are nine other times throughout the year when the Liturgy of St. Basil is prayed: The Feast of St. Basil (January 1st), the five Sundays of Great Lent, Great and Holy Thursday (of Holy Week), Great and Holy Saturday, and Christmas

To follow the service from our Service Book, you will find the prayers of St. Basil beginning on page 132, replacing the prayers which begin on page 103 in the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

Apolytikion of the Theophany of Christ (Tone 1)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and illumined the world, glory to Thee.

Kontakion of the Theophany of Christ (Tone 4)

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (The Theophany of Christ)

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul's Second Epistle to Titus (2:11-15; 3:4-7)

My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

THE GOSPEL (The Theophany of Christ)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew (3:13-17)

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."

The Synaxarion

On January 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Verses

Christ's Baptism, having rent open the Heavens,
leadeth therein all such as do not defile it.

On the sixth the Forerunner baptized Christ in the river.

When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and saving work. He Himself signified this "beginning of the

beginning” by His baptism in the River Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, “The beginning of the world: water; the beginning of the Good News: Jordan.” At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, the Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, “Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world.” When John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation were shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them (immersion) and became alive again (the coming out of the water); and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation. The Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany in Greek) is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the River Jordan illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. Also, every one of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Unto Christ be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

GLOSSARY: Troparion (tro-pah-ree-on); *plural*, Troparia: A brief poem in accentual metre, expressing the theme of a feast. Kontakion (kon-tah-kee-on); *plural*, Kontakia: A special kind of Troparion that expresses the teaching of a Feast. It summarizes and applies the meaning of a feast of day. Orthros (Or-thros): The word literally means *early morning*. It is the name of the service, which by some has been called *Matins*, and still by others, *Lauds*, though it does not correspond exactly to either of the Western Services. Eothonon (ee-oh-thee-non): meaning – *pertaining to the dawn*. They are the eleven assigned readings of the Gospel during the Orthros Service, pertaining to the eleven appearances of our Lord to His Disciples after the Resurrection. Synaxis (see-nax-sees) “the gathering or coming together” as it pertains to a celebration of a commemoration or feast. Following a major Feast a “Synaxis” commemorates the “co-stars” of the Feast, i.e., following the Feast of the Presentation of Christ (Ss. Simeon and Anna), following the Feast of the Birth of Christ (the Holy Virgin Mary), following the Feast of Holy Theophany (St. John the Baptist), etc. Synaxarion (see-nax-sah-ree-on) the summary of a Feast, describing a historical significance and meaning of a commemoration.

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 Holy Bread is being offered this morning by Ron & Kathy Zraick in memory of Ron's father, Isaac Zraick (+3 January, 1965). Memory eternal.

Flowers for the Festal Icon of Holy Theophany was offered in memory of Dr. Edward Deeb (+11 January,) by Jeanice Rose Deeb, Gina Deeb, Edward & Louise, Edward George & Amy, and Elias Deeb. Memory eternal. Prayers are also offered for the continued recovery of Edward Deeb, Jr.

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

for the repose of the newly-departed Homer Valle (+29 December, 2018).
Memory eternal.

by Anna & Cooper Rowe for the well being and continued health of
Anna's grandmother, Nancy Farha of Wichita, Kansas

by Ron & Kathy Zraick for the recovery of Ann Zraick

by Denise Cruz for the continued health of Joyce Ganz

Included in our prayers throughout the month of January are those celebrating their birthday: Eid Esshak Sayegh and Esshak Eid Sayegh (1/1), Nail Khoury (1/2), Steven Hage (1/4), Sophia Sweis (1/5), Vanessa Coury (1/5), Darryl Thomas (1/6), Silva Aftimos (1/8), Mark Hannah (1/8), Nizar Shahwan (1/8), Peter Joseph Turk (1/8), Hannah Homsey (1/9), Nancy Sawalha (1/9), Christian Ablahad (1/10), Marilee Ajalat (1/12), Yvonne Farr (1/12), Britton McLinn (1/12), Daniel Kneizeh (1/12), Robert Abraham (1/13), Diana Thabit (1/13), Michael Baclig (1/14), Marcel A. Haddad (1/14), Ghada Mansur (1/15), Violet Kavan (1/15), Abigail Elizabeth Abraham (1/15), Kevin Homsey (1/16), Joe Kence (1/16), Kelly Meena (1/17), Brandon Terry (1/17), Mary Ann Coury (1/18), Justin Henry (1/18), John Sweis (1/20), Albert Coury, Jr. (1/21), Christopher Matarese (1/21), Chad Manning (1/22), Sophia Rose Rygiol (1/22), Jeanette Tarbouche (1/22), Leslie Thabet (1/22), Christine Tarbouche (1/23), Riad Aftimos (1/24), Shereen Manning (1/24), Alek Milkie (1/24), Dejan Bozic (1/28), Tere Shimizu (1/28), Rita Makhoul (1/30),

Rami Yanni (1/30), Vanessa Murr (1/31); and those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Nicole & Robert Webster (1/1), Cathy & Joe Durrett (1/3), Adeeb & Nuha AbuGhazaleh (1/11), Walid & Isabel Kneizeh (1/17), and Cynthia & Nicholas Bibby (1/21). May God grant them all many years!

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

Anna Saadeh +15 Jan. 1963	Eva Nichols +28 Jan. 1999
Issac Zraick, +3 Jan. 1965	Helen Kirshy +18 Jan. 2000
Dorothy Fadel +6 Jan. 1973	Matilda Zahlaoui +22 Jan. 2000
Malakeh Saliba +14 Jan. 1975	Samir Aftimos +24 Jan. 2001
Fouad K. Mittry +20 Jan. 1975	Aida Boutari +5 Jan. 2002
Frieda George +17 Jan. 1976	Nazira Abdelhak +9 Jan. 2002
Marianne D. Halaby +27 Jan. 1997	Albert Thomas +17 Jan. 2005
John Mansur +16 Jan. 1981	Bill Shedd +17 Jan. 2007
John G. Khouri +27 Jan. 1981	Elinor Bourjaily +4 Jan. 2008
Alphonse Bonjianne +9 Jan. 1982	Dr. John Abdun-Nur +31 Jan. 2008
George Sadd +13 Jan. 1985	Assad Dawud +25 Jan. 2010
Sandra Pettit +17 Jan. 1985	Lorna Shedd +27 Jan. 2010
Michael D. Fayard +16 Jan. 1988	Assad Najjar +31 Jan. 2010
Mandouh Boutros +12 Jan. 1989	George Coury +3 Jan. 2011
Emile Boutari +30 Jan. 1990	Steven Peck +15 Jan. 2011
Shirley Jacobs +11 Jan. 1990	Usguhi Sarchizian +9 Jan. 2012
Marie Aboud +Jan. 1990	Robert Peck +19 Jan. 2012
Lila Bastron +25 Jan. 1991	Linda Simon +10 Jan. 2013
Margaret Gantus +1 Jan. 1992	Elia Qushair +12 Jan. 2013
Joseph Abrahms +21 Jan. 1992	David James Satel +12 Jan. 2013
Toofic Simon +12 Jan. 1996	Olga Judes Massou +2 Jan. 2015
Lucille T. Maddox +1 Jan. 1997	Gloria Nassif +20 Jan. 2015
Eva Meena +8 Jan. 1997	Norman Mamey +22 Jan. 2015
Edward Deeb +11 Jan. 1997	Vladimir Petrov +27 Jan. 2015
Haifa Ellis +29 Jan. 1997	Nelly M. Zacky +15 Jan. 2016
Michael T. Haddad +1 Jan. 1998	Huda Elshaer +20 Jan. 2016
Phyllis Mittry +16 Jan. 1998	Louis Slemmon +17 Jan. 2016
Madeline Bediali +9 Jan. 1999	Areij Rabadi +19 Jan. 2017
Saman Simon +23 Jan. 1999	Moses "Ricky" Namay +29 Jan. 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.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

[Note: Wednesdays and Fridays are observed as days of fasting]

The Leave-taking of the Feast of Holy Theophany - Friday, January 11

The After-Feast and Sunday after the Holy Theophany of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

Saturday, January 12th – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 13th – Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

House Blessings

You may schedule to have your home blessed following the Great Blessing of the Water for The Feast of Holy Theophany, by contacting either Father Timothy at: 818-219-3761, <pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org> or Father Minas Sarchizian at: 818-376-0049, <fatherminas@gmail.com>.

Reminder: Saturday, January 12 is the RSVP deadline for the St. Michael 50th Anniversary Banquet Reservations.

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Report Booklet

Due to our 50th Anniversary Celebration weekend, the Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2019. In the best interest of time, a Report Booklet will be prepared for distribution prior to the Annual Meeting. Single page Annual Reports of Council officers, Standing Committees and Subsidiary Organizations are now due.

A New Sign-up Board for Coffee Hour Hosts is Now Available

Please see or contact Cindy Tamoush to host an open date for the upcoming Coffee Hours. However, should you be planning a memorial service and host a reception, please be sure to speak with Father Timothy before scheduling a coffee hour.



It's hard to believe 2019 is here!

Please be sure to review the 2019 Coffee Hour sign-up chart in our kitchen.

Reserve your choice date to honor a birthday, anniversary, memorial of a loved one or just a random date to host or co-host a coffee hour.

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Jan 13 - the Azzam and Hallak families
Jan 20 - open
Jan 27 - Katrina & John Tambouras
Feb 03 - Margaret Abdun-Nur
Feb 12 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Jan 13 - the Azzam and Hallak families
Jan 20 - open
Jan 27 - The Antiochian Women
Feb 03 - Pancake Breakfast
Feb 12 - Nicole & Robert Webster

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.

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, January 21, 2019, 7 p.m.

Antiochian House of Studies Begins Class Enrollment
[1020 Base Line Rd., La Verne, CA, 91750]

The following classes are scheduled for all interested: 1) Sacred Church Music with V. Rev. Anna Hakimeh (Arabic and English); to be held every other Saturday for 2.5 hours, beginning on March 2, 2019 at 10 a.m., \$600 [for further information contact Fr. Anania at: fatheranantias@gmail.com] 2) Sacred Art of Iconography with Khouirye Randa Al Khoury Azar; seven classes planned for Saturdays (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and Sundays (1-6 p.m.); March 30-31, April 06-07, 13-15, and on May 18 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), \$600, plus \$150 for course materials [for further information contact Khouirye Randa at: randa.Azar@gmail.com]. For registration contact: Anna Naser at 714-971-2244 or annasgi@yahoo.com for an application form.

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

Big Bear Young Adult Retreat - January 19-21
with His Grace Bishop JOHN: "Knowing Love: Relationships in Christ,
Through Christ;" \$204/with lift; \$134/without lift
Register at: DLAWYOUNGADULTS.COM

Saturday, January 26, 2019 - 50th Anniversary Reception and Banquet
at the Odyssey Restaurant following Great Vespers (4 p.m.);
Reception, 5:30 p.m.; Dinner, 6:30 p.m.

Calendar for:	2019	2020	2021
First Day of Great Lent	March 11	March 02	March 15
Holy Pascha	April 28	April 19	May 02
Western Easter	April 21	April 12	April 04
Feast of Theophany	Sunday		January 6, 2019
Meat Fare Sunday	Sunday		March 3, 2019
Feast of the Annunciation	Monday		March 25, 2019
Feast of the Ascension	Thursday		June 6, 2019
Pentecost	Sunday		June 16, 2019
Feast of the Nativity	Wednesday		December 25, 2019

Neighborhood Open Houses

As we celebrate our parish's Fiftieth Year, it is our hope that you will get to know your fellow parishioners in your neighborhood. We have formed a listing of our members in each area of the Los Angeles metropolitan area and are looking for volunteers to host a neighborhood gathering sometime this year. Please contact Carolyn Sadd, who is being assisted by George Khouri in providing you with a list of parishioners in your area, should you be interested in being a host. The gatherings are to be informal and to allow for socializing; maximum two (2) hours, i.e., 7-9 p.m. Deserts or refreshments may be considered. Potlucks may also be planned. Hosts will be responsible in contacting parishioners in their neighborhood. We are asking our hosts not to include dates between March 11 to April 28 (Great Lent to Pascha); and to also note the church calendar dates of fasting. Should you have any questions, please speak with Father Timothy: 818-219-3761 <pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org>

Frequently Asked Questions When Completing a Pledge Form

What is the reason for completing an annual parish Pledge Form?

Each year planning for budgeted receipts and expenditures are an important part of being responsible stewards of Christ's church. Some of our month-to-month expenses include: priest and staff salaries, utility and maintenance expenses, the payment of taxes on all investment (income) property (yes, churches do pay property taxes), and insurance. It is not uncommon for these expenses increase each year. It is a goal of our Parish Council to meet these expenses with the contributions of our members. The Pastor does not receive stipends (monetary gifts) for house blessings, baptisms, weddings and funerals if a family is not enrolled with the parish and completed an annual pledge form. The Pastor's living expenses and allowances are included the Annual Budget of the parish.

What is an annual "Fair Share Commitment?"

Each parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese pays 10% of its parish income to assist with the expenses of our bishops, Archdiocesan and Diocesan departments and programs. Over one-fourth of the Archdiocese budget is dedicated to youth programs. The annual payment to the Archdiocese from St. Michael Church is 10% of our parish income (excluding contributions received for the Building Fund, charity collections, special Archdiocese collections, and memorial gifts). This money is collected from our parishioners from their first contribution to the church: \$50 for each adult and \$35 for each child (17 years of age or under) in a household. All additional funds pledged by our parishioners assist with the month-to-month expenses of the parish.

Our 2019 Pledge Forms Provided with this Bulletin

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2019 form. Everyone's financial situation is subject to changes from year to year. In the same way, our parish depends upon the financial pledge commitments of its members in order to meet its monthly expenses. Each year a budget is prepared for membership approval at our Annual Meeting. May God bless us all in practicing good Christian stewardship.

2019 Offering Boxes Now Available

If you use our offering envelopes each week for your pledge, your box is now available in the narthex with your name label.

Capital Funds Campaign Committee Recommends Building Fund Donation Tax Benefits

A charitable donation of long-term appreciated securities, i.e., stocks, bonds and/or mutual funds that have realized significant appreciation over time is one of the best and most tax-efficient of all ways to give. This method of giving has become increasingly popular in recent years. There are two main advantages: 1) Any long-term appreciated securities with unrealized gains (meaning they were purchased over a year ago, and have a current value greater than their original cost) may be donated to the church with the benefit of receiving a tax deduction for the full fair value of the securities—up to 60% of the donor's adjusted gross income; 2) since the securities/stock is being donated rather than sold, capital gains taxes from selling the securities no longer apply. And the more appreciation the securities have, the greater the tax savings will be.

Second: A Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) is an option for anyone 70.5 years of age or older. You are able to take advantage of withdrawing from your personal IRA (Individual Retirement Account) without paying Federal or State Taxes. This will give the donor an opportunity to fulfill their pledge. You would not be able to take a tax deduction on the donation, however, not having to pay Federal or State Taxes on the IRA withdrawal far exceeds the benefit of a tax deduction. [Your IRA deduction cannot exceed \$100,000 per year.]

In both of the above options the funds would need to be transferred from either your Securities Brokerage Account or IRA Account directly to the St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church Brokerage Account in order for the donation to qualify.

Third: Many corporations provide their employees with a “Matching Funds Program” to the charity of their choice. The amount may vary with each company. We suggest that you check with the Human Resources Department or the Comptroller of the company where you are employed to see if such a program is being offered.

St. Michael Church has benefited by all of the above from its members. For more information please speak with Ron Zraick, Chairman of the Capital Funds Campaign Committee <ronaldzraick@yahoo.com>.

عيد ظهور ربنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح

طروبارية على اللحن الأول

باعتمادك يا رب في نهر الأردن، ظهرت السجدة للثالوث، لأن صوت الآب تقدّم لك بالشهادة، مسمياً إياك ابناً محبوباً، والروح بهينة حمامة يؤيد حقيقة الكلمة، فإنا من ظهرت وأنت العالم، أيها المسيح الإله المجد لك.

قنداق على اللحن الرابع

اليوم ظهرت للمسكونة يا رب، ونورك قد ارتسم علينا نحن، الذين نُسبّحك بمعرفة قائلين: لقد أتيت وظهرت، أيها النور الذي لا يُدنى منه.

الرسالة

مبارك الآتي باسم الرب اعترفوا للرب فإنه صالح.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى تيطس

يا ولدي تيطس، نعمة الله، ينبوع الخلاص لجميع البشر، ظهرت لتعلمنا أن نمتنع عن الكفر وشهوات هذه الدنيا لنعيش بتعقل وصلاح وتقوى في العالم الحاضر، مُنظرين اليوم المبارك الذي نرجوه، يوم ظهور مجد إلهنا العظيم ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح الذي ضحى بنفسه لأجلنا حتى يفتدينا من كل شر ويطهرنا ويجعلنا شعبة الخاص الغيور على العمل الصالح. فلما ظهر حنان الله مخلصنا ومحبتة للبشر، خلصنا، لا لأي عمل صالح عملناه، بل لأنه شاء برحمته أن يخلصنا بغسل الميلاد الثاني حياة جديدة بالروح القدس الذي أفاضه الله علينا وإفرا بيسوع المسيح مخلصنا، حتى نتبرر بنعمة المسيح ونرث الحياة الأبدية التي نرجوها.

الإنجيل

فصل من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي

في ذلك الزمان جاء يسوع من الجليل إلى الأردن ليتعمّد على يد يوحنا. فمانعه يوحنا وقال له: «أنا أحتاج أن أتعمد على يدك، فكيف تجيء أنت إليّ؟ فأجابه يسوع: «ليكن هذا الآن، لأننا به نتمم مشيئة الله». فوافق يوحنا. وتعمّد يسوع وخرج في الحال من الماء. وانفتحت السماوات له، فرأى روح الله يهبط كأنه حمامة وينزل عليه. وقال صوت من السماء: «هذا هو ابني الحبيب الذي به سررت».

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، الا إن 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 عضواً فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية

