

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
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The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat Fare)

Martyrs Euthropios, Kleonikos and Basilicas of Amasea;
Hieromartyr Theoretos of Antioch

Sunday, March 03, 2019

Tone 7; Eothinon 7

Apolytikion of 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 our Patron the Archangel Michael (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 Thy unearthly glory, preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the Highest Power.

Kontakion for the Prodigal Son (Tone 1)

When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday of the Last Judgment)

The Lord is my strength and my praise. The Lord chastising has chastised me,
but He hath not delivered me over to death.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (8:8 – 9:2)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care, lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you—a man of knowledge—at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And

so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

THE GOSPEL (for the Sunday of the Last Judgment)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Synaxarion

On March 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos, and Basilikos of Amasea; and the Hieromartyr Theodoretos of Antioch.

Today, we commemorate the Second and impartial Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses

When the Judge of all sitteth to judge the earth,
Come now! Mayest Thou judge me worthy of Thy voice!

It is the Sunday of the Last Judgment—known also as Meat Fare Sunday—the lesson of which occurs in today’s Holy Gospel. Jesus illustrates to us God’s ineffable goodness and His great love for mankind. And so lest some who are lazy should loiter and spend the time appropriate to their salvation in the pursuit of sin, and be suddenly overtaken by death, the divine Fathers decree that on this day the remembrance of the Second Appearance of Christ may be celebrated. The intention is to remind them that, as God is good and loving to mankind, He is also a very righteous Judge Who recompenses each according to his deeds. Our Lord teaches us that when we minister to our brother or sister, we really minister to Him. This brings us righteousness and life eternal.

By Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ God, make us worthy of Thy devoted voice, number us among Thy righteous ones and have mercy on us. Amen.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread and wheat are being offered by the Habib family for the forty-day memorial of the newly-departed servant of God, Gregory M. Habib (+18 January, 2019), by all of his loving family. Memory eternal.

Prayers are also offered for the peace and comfort of our loved ones of the Habib, Tambouras, Malouf, Dodds, Houston, Siano, and Walton families; also for God’s blessing and healing for John Tambouras.

John Apostolou and Emile Skaff sincerely appreciates all of the helpers and parishioners who worked to make this year's Annual Pancake Breakfast a great success!!! Thank you very much!

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

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Rita Fadel (+24, February, 2019), beloved aunt of George Saade. Memory eternal.

for the birthday of Amanda Monsue and the forty-eighth wedding anniversary of Deacon Andrew and Barbara Monsue.

May God grant them many years!

by Samir & Amira Boutari for the continued health of Ibrahim Wassef

Included in our prayers throughout the month of March are those celebrating their birthday: Tony Mansur (3/2), Emily Meena (3/3), Kim Scott (3/3), Claudia Zait (3/3), Charles Ajalat (3/4), Sammy Kudmani (3/5), Janice Khoury (3/6) John Apostolou (3/7), Emile Esshak Dahdah (3/8), Nicole Rose Kouri (3/10), Julie Malouf (3/10), Sahar Wassef (3/11), Hisham Barakat (3/12), Madison Graham (3/12), Mary Ann Mitchell (3/13), Nicole Rafidi (3/14), Samia Habib (3/15), Aiden Mulry (3/15), Kenny Toomey (3/16), Adeeb Abughazaleh (3/19), Maria Habib (3/18), Natasha Ibrahim (3/19), Ellaney Matarese (3/19), Gregory Habib (3/19), Richard Khoury (3/19), Cecilia Coudsy (3/20), Benjamin Peters (3/20), Nuha Abughazaleh (3/21), Christina Hannah (3/22), Ella Manning (3/22), Terese Tintocalis-Crane (3/23), Deborah Worotko (3/23), William Mulry (3/24), Fred Nicola (3/26), Kristen Schumacher (3/26), Peyton Abughazaleh (3/27), Laurie Rowihab (3/27), Issam Sweis (3/27), Jake Thomas (3/27), Rebecca Zait (3/27), Suzanne Ajalat Aparicio (2/28), Jeannette Berberi (3/28), Nicole Nassir Webster (3/28), Debra (Debi) Dodds (3/29), Kimberlee Abughazaleh (3/30), Richard Tamoush (3/30); and those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Ted & Cecilia Coudsy (3/3) May God grant them many years!

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

Habeeb George, +28 March, 1967

Nadia Baida, +8 March, 1968

Andrew Andrews, +4 March, 1969

Marie Baida, +27 March, 1975

Mary Saliba Malouf, +21 March, 2004

Amelia Nader, +27 March, 2005

Frank "Skip" Miller, +1 March, 2007

Lily Wassef, +9 March, 2008

Vladimir Patrick, +3 March, 1977
Charlotte Stelmack, +1 March, 1983
Edward Gabriel, +6 March, 1983
Stellio Satel, +13 March, 1983
Alice L. Peck, +7 March, 1988
Donald Wagner, +17 March, 1990
David Barkett, +5 March, 1990
Louis E. Khoury, +18 March, 1991
George Saadeh, +21 March
Oliver Cates, +20 March, 1994
Billy Handal, +26 March, 1994
Albert Saade, +7 March, 1998
Arthur Brown, +6 March, 1999
Fred Homsy, +11 March, 1999
Carim Rihbany, +17 March, 1999
George Rogers, +26 March, 2000
Richard Chala, +8 March, 2001
James Morgan, +8 March, 2001
Anthony Haddad, +24 March, 2001
Edward Thabet, +18 March, 2002
William Bailey, +20 March, 2002
Charles Hosey, +24 March, 2002
Christine Saadeh, +28 March, 2003
Jamil Barghash, +31 March, 2003
Mary Yazbek, +1 March, 2004

Kaleel "Kal" Mittry, +20 March, 2008
Tony Glenn, +29 March, 2008
Carrie Deeb Skaff, +25 March, 2009
Ezequiel Barbar, +26 March, 2009
Leonard Shaheen, +1 March, 2010
Christine Naser, +8 March, 2010
Farris Abdallah, +21 March, 2011
Aida Haddad, +1 March, 2011
Lily Ruff, +4 March, 2011
Elie Turkieh, +12 March, 2011
Helen Saleh, +29 March, 2011
Joseph Sweis, +17 March, 2012
Pamela Rose Raffis, +March, 2012
Steve Tobey, +30 March, 2012
Phyllis Deeb, +27 March, 2013
Boutros Ghawi, +27 March, 2013
Elias Boulos Azzam, +29 March, 2013
Joshua Fortin, +11 March, 2014
Lareese Nicola, +31 March, 2016
Georget Aftimos, +9 March, 2017
Joseph Lakah, +March, 2017
Gene Hapip, +18 March, 2017
Ellis Hanna, +19 March, 2017
George H. Jabrieh, +23 March, 2017
Diana Kaady, +30 March, 2018

Memory Eternal!

NOTE: Names and dates mentioned above are from our current Office Records. Please inform us of any error and we will correct it.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Lenten Dinner Host Scheduling

Great Lent begins on Monday, March 11. Each Wednesday evening a simple Lenten meal is hosted by a group of families of our parish following

the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, beginning on March 13—hosted by families of our Church School. If you have not participated in previous years and would like to be included in a group on the following Wednesday evenings, please phone Rima Hage in the evenings at: 818-366-2119, or e-mail her at: <rimahingh@yahoo.com> to sign-up and she will gladly provide you with further details on being part of a group. The menu is vegan and should be modest and not elaborate.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Note: Today (“Meat Fare”) is the final day for consuming all meat products, However, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil may be consumed on any day of this week.]

The Sunday of the Cheese Fare*

Great Vespers – Saturday, March 9th, 5 p.m.

Orthros – Sunday, March 10th, 8:45 a.m.; Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Beginning of Great Lent – Monday, February 11th

Lenten Weekday Services

Great Compline – Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts – Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

[followed by a parish Lenten meal]

“Akathist”/“Madeyeh” (Service of Intercessory Prayer) – Fridays, 6:30 p.m.

The Feast of the Annunciation – Monday, March 25th

[Ladies' Annual Women's Annunciation Tea - Saturday, March 23]

Holy Pascha (Easter) – Sunday, April 8th

* the final day for consuming all dairy products, eggs, fish wine and oil. A traditional fasting discipline is observed during the Great Fast, which lasts from Pure Monday (March 11th) through Great and Holy Saturday (April 27th). Katalysis (provision) for wine and oil is made on Saturdays and Sundays [with the exception of Great and Holy Saturday when there is katalysis for wine, but not for oil (implying food made more tasty by being cooked in or with oil as opposed to simple xerophagy of ‘dry eating,’ meaning raw fruits, vegetables and grains or those soaked or cooked in water)]. On the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25th) and Palm Sunday (April 21st), fish, wine and oil are permitted.

IMPORTANT NOTE: One should bear in mind that fasting is not an end in itself, but a means to a spiritual goal. One's health should not be jeopardized in fasting. The Church does not recommend those persons such as expectant mothers or those requiring medication to ignore their doctor's instructions. One should also consider how abstaining from social activities and various other pleasures may also be helpful. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Fr. Timothy.

March is Women's Month in the Antiochian Archdiocese

Our women are participating in the services throughout the month of March. Reading the epistle this morning is: Michelle Moujaes. The ushers are: Mary Ann Mitchell, Debi Dodds, Nickie Malouf and Kathy Zraick. And delivering a message is: President, Charmaine Darnour

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, March 18, 2019

[Community Center Conference Room at 7:30 p.m.,
following the Lenten Service of Great Compline]

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Mar 10 - open
Mar 17 - The Abughazaleh Family
Mar 24 - open
Mar 31 - open
Apr 07 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Mar 10 - Mandy & Constantine Nasr (Cheese Fare)
Mar 17 - The Abughazaleh Family
Mar 24 - open
Mar 31 - open
Apr 07 - open

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.

Have You Visited our Bookstore Lately?

Several New Items Have Arrived for Great Lent. You may also place your order for a Holy Week Service Book. Also, beautiful handmade wood Orthodox crosses (crafted by Al Kinan) are for sale (\$25), 90% of proceeds will help support the Orthodox Secondary School in Taybeh, Palestine. The crosses make great gifts. Fr. Constantine Nasr and Fr. Timothy are benefactors of this school.

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

50th Anniversary Annunciation Tea on Saturday,
March 23rd; Featured speaker: Tammy Tamoush Salamone
who will share her story on recovering from breast cancer:
“Are you there God? It’s me, Tammy”

St. Mark Young Adult Pilgrimage to St. Barbara Monastery
Saturday, March 23, 2019

Lenten Retreat at St. Michael Church (Whittier), Saturday, March 16
with Father John Finley who will present three meditations on:
“The Inner Heaven of Man” Focusing Upon the Healing of
Mind, Heart and Will; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., RSVP by e-mail to
Father John Fenton: frjohnfenton@gmail.com

Teen Gathering - Saturday, March 30, 2019
at St. Nicholas Cathedral

50th Anniversary St. Michael Golf Classic - Monday, May 13, 2019
Woodland Hills Country Club

IOCC “Share the Love” Valentine Dinner, Sunday, May 19, 2019
St. Luke Church (Garden Grove) at 5 p.m., \$50/person
Go to: iocc.org/sharethelove

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>

Antiochian Archdiocese Convention - July 21-28, 2019

Host: St. Nicholas Church; Grand Rapids, Michigan

Go to: AC2019gr.org to register for your hotel room, view the Convention schedule and download forms for the ad book and registration. There are two (2) Convention hotels: 1) the Amway Grand Plaza (\$149/night) with free self-parking and WiFi; 2) the JW Marriott (\$184/night), adjacent to the Convention hotel.

67th Annual Diocesan Parish Life Conference

Host: St. Anthony Church; San Diego, California, July 3-7, 2019

Go to: antiochianevents.com/la.html to register for your hotel room (\$169/night) at the Sheraton Harbor Island and Marina.

Please Do Not Enter the Construction Site

Please stay clear and keep all children away from the construction site on our property to avoid any accident or unintended mishap. We will be asphaltting a section of our property to provide additional parking in the near future, weather permitting. The fencing will be repositioned once our parking lot is expanded. Thank you for your cooperation.

What is a "Hate Crime?"

On February 14th, 2019, Deacon Andrew Monsue attended the West Valley Clergy Council Meeting at the LAPD West Valley Division Station and provided our Parish Council with a report from the presentations made by Detectives Jude Bella and Armando Monarrez. His report, in part, included the following definitions:

A hate crime is any criminal act or attempt directed against a person(s), public agency, or private institution based on the victim's ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, or because the agency, institution or victim is

identified or associated with a person or group of an identifiable race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender.

Hate Incidents is any noncriminal act including words directed against a person(s) based on that person's actual or perceived race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender, such as epithets, distribution of hate material in public places, posted hate material that does not result in property damages or display of offensive material on one own property.

Hate Crimes are: a) acts that results in injuries, no matter how small; b) threats of violence that look like they can be carried out; c) vandalism or other destructive acts resulting in property damage; d) any criminal act or attempted criminal act directed against public or private or private agencies; e) harassment, including anonymous telephone calls, threatening letters, f) interruptions of religious services; g) murder; h) threats made verbally, in writing and by means of electronic communication devices which can apparently be carried out. (Electronic communication device includes, but is not limited to, telephones, cellular telephones, computers, video recorders, fax machines, or pagers.)

Hate crimes can be prosecuted either as misdemeanors or felonies, depending on the severity of the acts committed. Hates crimes and hate incidents are tracked by the Police Department and are given priority during the follow up investigation by LAPD.

Historically, hate crimes have been under reported; thus, many are not prosecuted. In West Valley Division in 2017, there were 11 hate crimes and four hate incidents reported, in 2018, there were 7 hate crimes and 4 hate incidents reported. The majority were investigated as misdemeanors and involved vandalism to property.

The California Penal Code, Sections 422-455, identifies the "symbols of terror" as: the Nazi Swastika, the burning of a Cross and a noose. The items are traditionally identified as means of creating terror. Identifying criminal acts as a hate crime is usually based upon the nature of the **criminal actions** of the perpetrator(s), along with the target and/or the victim(s) being one of six protected groups listed above.

May the Holy Archangel Michael shelter under his wings, guard and protect all of our faithful and all God-loving peoples!

PASTORAL SERMON
The Sunday of Meat Fare
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
March 3, 2019

The themes of love and judgment are often mentioned together in the Bible and in Christian prayers and hymns. For example in St. John's epistle we read: *God is love, and whoever lives in love lives in union with Him. Love is made perfect in us in order that we may have courage on the **Judgment Day** (1 John 4:16-17).*

In the Gospel of St. John we hear: *For God so loved the world that He gave is only Son . . . God did not send His Son into the world to be its **judge**, but to be its Savior. Whoever believes in the Son is not **judged**; but whoever does not believe has already been **judged** (John 3:16-18).*

In a petition heard in our Liturgy we hear the words: *For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord...* Jesus Christ is our "good defense." He is our advocate and has provided the atonement for our sins by His voluntary sacrifice. Our petition is a plea for His love and mercy.

But you may ask what about all of the fearful descriptions of hell, fire and brimstone in the Bible? These are warnings in pictorial representation, just as they are found in icons. However, these images are not interpreted as geographic or physical places created by God for the punishment of human beings. They are admonitions with a clear and serious message: Life outside of the love of God results in evil, falsehood, hatred, guilt, alienation, and pain. Life apart from God leads to agony of darkness in which people torment themselves and each other. It is a spiritual hell created not by God but by the willful refusal to turn to God, Who is love, in order to be forgiven, cleansed, renewed and liberated.

How can the Lord of love and goodness be also the Lord of judgment? Is there an inconsistency in the images of God as a loving Father and God as a righteous Judge? The Church Fathers answered this perplexing difficulty by affirming that God is always a loving Father for everyone—both righteous and sinners. In this life, and in the life to come, everyone who is desirous of knowing God, experience the radiance of God's love, however those who have separated themselves from God experience the same radiance of God's love as fire of judgment—a "scourge of love," as described by St. Isaac the Syrian.

God does not **cause** judgment at any time. He is not vengeful to evildoers nor does He prepare a place of punishment (Hell). This does not mean that Hell does not exist. It does. However, God is love and by His very nature He cannot do what is evil, hateful, or destructive to anyone. Judgment and hell are spiritual conditions of sin and darkness. Judgment **results** when someone is separated from God who is the source of light and life. Judgment also results when we willfully shut ourselves off from God's redeeming love.

Through the Parable of the Last Judgment, Christ teaches us that heaven and hell pertain to the fulfillment of physical and spiritual needs. That fulfillment is determined by choices. Each day we make choices on a path to holiness or unrighteousness. These choices are directly related to our physical and spiritual well being. Christ taught us by His example and teaching that the main virtues of Christians are faithful obedience and loving service to God and to each other. Great Lent is a time for sorting out our real needs from the distortion of false needs. I call it "the Church's forty-day rehabilitation of the soul." By bringing shaper focus upon what is necessary from what is not, we can in fact be able to do more in helping others. This is precisely the point of today's Gospel lesson.

EOTHINON 7

الايوثينا 7

STONE 7

اللحن 7

THE SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEAT FARE)

MARTYRS EUTROPIOS, KLEONIKOS, AND BASILIKOS OF AMASEA;
HIEROMARTYR THEODORETOS OF ANTIOCH

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن السابع
حطمت بصليبك الموت وفتحت للصل الفردوس، وحوّلت نوح حاملات الطيب، وأمرت
رسلك أن يكرزوا بأنك قد قمت أيها المسيح الإله مانحاً العالم الرحمة العظمى.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع
أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسل إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتى أنكم
بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظل أجنحة مجدكم غير الهيولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجائين
والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوات العلوية.

قنداق مرفع اللحم على اللحن الأول

متى جئت يا الله على الأرض بمجدٍ، فسيرتعد منك كل شيء. ونهر النار سيجري أمام منبر الدينونة، والخفايا ستعلن، حينئذ أنقذني من النار التي لا تطفأ، وأهلني للوقوف عن يمينك، أيها القاضي العادل.

الرسالة

قوتي وتسبيحتي الرب، أدباً أدبني الرب.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى أهل كورنثس

يا اخوة، إن الطعام لا يقربنا إلى الله، فإن أكلنا لا نكسب شيئاً، وإن لم نأكل لا نخسر شيئاً. ولكن انظروا أن لا تكون حريتكم هذه حجر عثار للضعفاء. فإن رآك أحد، يا صاحب المعرفة، تأكل في بيت الأوثان ألا يتشجع إذا كان ضعيف الضمير، فيأكل من ذبائح الأوثان؟ فيهلك بسبب معرفتك الأخ الضعيف الذي مات المسيح من أجله. وهكذا تخطئون إلى المسيح حين تخطئون إلى الاخوة وتجرحون ضمائرهم الضعيفة. فإذا كان الطعام يشكك أخي فلن أكل لحماً إلى الأبد، لئلا أشكك أخي. أما أنا رسول؟ أما أنا حر؟ أما رأيت ربنا يسوع المسيح؟ أما أنتم عملي في الرب؟ وإن لم أكن رسولا عند غيركم، فإنني رسول عندكم، لأنكم أنتم خاتم رسالتي في الرب.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى

قال الرب: متى جاء ابن البشر في مجده، ومعه جميع الملائكة القديسين يستوي على عرش مجده. وتُحشد أمامه جميع الشعوب، فيميز بعضهم من بعض، مثلما يميز الراعي الخراف عن الجداء، فيقيم الخراف عن يمينه، والجداء عن يساره. ويقول للذين عن يمينه: تعالوا، يا من باركهم أبي، رثوا الملك المهياً لكم منذ إنشاء العالم، لأنني جعت فأطعمتموني، وعطشت فسقتموني، وكنت غريباً فأويتموني، وعريانا فكسوتموني، ومريضا فزرتموني، وسجينا فجنتم إلي. فيجيبه الصديقون:

يا رب، متى رأيناك جائعا فأطعمناك؟ أو عطشانا فسقيناك؟ ومتى رأيناك غريبا فأويناك؟ أو عريانا فكسوناك؟ ومتى رأيناك مريضا أو سجيناً فجننا اليك؟ فيجيبهم الملك: الحق أقول لكم: بما أنكم فعلتم هذا لواحد من اخوتي الصغار، فلي فعلتموه! ثم يقول للذين عن يساره: ابتعدوا عني، يا ملاعين، إلى النار الأبدية المهياة لإبليس وملائكته: لأنني جعلتُ فلم تطعموني، وعطشتُ فلم تسقوني، وكنت غريبا فلم تؤووني، وعرينا فلم تكسوني، ومريضا وسجينا فلم تزوروني. فيجيبه هؤلاء: يا رب متى رأيناك جائعا أو عطشانا، غريبا أو عريانا، مريضا أو سجيناً ولم نخدمك؟ فيجيبهم الملك: الحق أقول لكم: بما أنكم لم تفعلوا هذا لواحد من اخوتي الصغار، فلي لم تفعلوه! فيذهب هؤلاء إلى العذاب الأبدي، والصديقون إلى الحياة الأبدية.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، إلا 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 فى الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية