

**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](http://www.antiochian.org)  
Archpriest Timothy Baclig, Pastor      [frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)  
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Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Pastoral Assistant      [rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.com](mailto:rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.com)  
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Council Treasurer - Kris Thabit      [kthabit66@hotmail.com](mailto:kthabit66@hotmail.com)  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of No. America (AOCWNA)  
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Church Comptroller - Mary Ann Coury      [maryanncoury@aol.com](mailto:maryanncoury@aol.com)  
Choir Director - Art Danks      [artdanks1@yahoo.com](mailto:artdanks1@yahoo.com)  
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50th Anniversary Co-Chair - Don Meena      [donmeena@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmeena@sbcglobal.net)  
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Webmaster - Dan Raju      [dan.raju16@hotmail.com](mailto:dan.raju16@hotmail.com)  
Coffee Hour Coordinator - Cindy Tamoush      [famtam5@socal.rr.com](mailto:famtam5@socal.rr.com)  
Head Usher - Ramez Hage      [jeddo.ramez@gmail.com](mailto:jeddo.ramez@gmail.com)

## **The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost and the Fifth Sunday of Luke**

The Martyrs Akepsimas, Joseph and Aeithalas of Persia; The  
Dedication of St. George Church in Lydda of Palestine;  
Hieromartyr George of Neapolis; Theodore the Confessor, bishop of Ancyra

**Sunday, November 3, 2019**

**Tone 3; Eothinon 9**

### **Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 3)**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

### **Apolytikion for the Persian Martyrs (Tone 4)**

Thy martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For, since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

### **Apolytikion for St. George the Great-Martyr (Tone 4)**

Thy martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For, since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

### **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 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost)

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands, all ye peoples.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)**

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He Who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other Apostles except James the Lord's brother.

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.'"

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## **The Synaxarion**

On November 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Martyrs Akepsimas the bishop, Joseph the priest and Aeithalas the deacon of Persia.

### ***Verses***

Akepsimas is slain by thrashings with cudgels,  
and Akepsimas' friends, by merciless stoning.

On the third, Akepsimas is beaten, and his fellow athletes stoned.

A child prophesied that 80-year-old Bishop Akepsimas would suffer for Christ. He told a member of his household that he would not return home, but instead go to his "home on high." King Sapor raised a bitter persecution of Christians throughout Persia, and Akepsimas was apprehended and thrown into prison. The following day Joseph, a 70-year-old priest, and Aeithalas, a deacon, were also imprisoned. After three years of imprisonment and many tortures, Akepsimas was

beheaded. Joseph and Aeithalas were buried up to their waists in the ground and stoned to death. That night, by God's providence, Joseph's body disappeared, and a myrtle tree grew over Aeithalas' body that healed all diseases and pain. This tree stood for five years before the wicked pagans cut it down. These soldiers of Christ suffered in Persia in the fourth century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Consecration of the Temple of the holy Great-Martyr George in Lydda in Palestine, as well as the deposition of his holy body therein. George's relics came from Nicomedia, where he suffered at the time of Emperor Diocletian. Anticipating his martyrdom, George begged his servant to take his relics to Palestine, where his mother had been born, and where he had distributed his large estate to the poor. The servant did so. During the reign of Emperor Constantine, pious Christians built the beautiful church to house the miracle-working relics of the Great Martyr.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr George of Neapolis; and Venerable Theodore the Confessor, bishop of Ancyra. 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.

## **OFFERINGS**

Holy Bread and memorial wheat are being offered by the Khoury family for the two-year memorial of their beloved mother, Esma Khoury (+31 October, 2017). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Laila Dawud and family with prayers for the Dawud family: Nadeem, David, Assad, Nahil, Neveen, Natalie, Assad, Dema, Andrew, and Emile; especially for the November birthdays of Laila (November 2) and Emily (November 12), Nahil and Neveen; also in memory of Assad, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and Dema, beloved daughter, sister and aunt.

Holy Bread is being offered by George & Samira Hayek in memory of their son, Michael Hayek, and the continued health of Michael, Shafica and Claire Bitar.

Holy Bread is being offered and the coffee hour hosted by Laila Abughazaleh with prayers for her family members celebrating their birthdays in November. Also for the continued health of the entire Ababseh, Azzam, Karam, Tannous and Abughazaleh families.

Holy Bread is being offered by the Khleif family with prayers for the continued health and success of their son and brother, Rafeed Khleif.

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

for the recent birthday of Elaine Srour, by Michael Srour,  
Leandro & Denise Cruz and Isabella,  
Steven & Orit Srour, Jonathan, Celine and Shylee.

in thanksgiving for the successful surgery of Alan Namay, and that God  
in his infinite mercy will grant him a complete recovery;  
also for Emile Skaff on the occasion of his 86th birthday (November 6).  
May he be abundantly blessed in the goodness of God's grace.  
(with love by Mae Tortolano and family)

by Richard Tamoush for the continued health of Bob & Diana Toomey.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God,  
Julian Gota (+29 October, 2019)

for the continued health of Laila Abughazaleh.

by Sanur & Amira Boutari for the continued health of Abdallah Zaki.

in loving memory of beloved father, Nour Ayoub (+1 November, 2006)  
by the members of his family. Memory eternal.

by Louis J. Khoury for the repose of the newly departed,  
Glenda Rahmani (+31 October, 2019). Memory eternal.

by Bobbi Monsue, Daphne Thabet and their families for  
Deacon Andrew Monsue celebrating his birthday today.  
May God grant him continued blessings and many years!

by Daphne Thabet for the continued recovery of Willem Tensen.

*Included in our prayers throughout the month of November are those celebrating their birthday: Claire Mike Azzam (11/1), Michael Mitchell (11/2), Laila Dawud (11/2), Leilah Sadd (11/2), Nabeel Abughazaleh (11/3), Cooper Hage (11/3), Deacon Andrew 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), Judith Aboud (11:11), Elias Nabeel Abughazaleh (11/11), Richard Chala (11/11), Anne Marie Botezatu (11/12), Emily Dawud (11/12), Rima Hage (11/13), Dennis Haggard (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), Eugenia Wall (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:*

<i>Jamele Koekaz, +16 Nov. 1961</i>	<i>Louis Edwards, +17 Nov. 2003</i>
<i>Arthur Grob, +7 Nov. 1978</i>	<i>Alexandra Khoury, +25 Nov. 2003</i>
<i>Adla Gallade, +17 Nov. 1982</i>	<i>Mary Hart, +3 Nov., 2005</i>
<i>Joseph Khamis, +Nov. 1988</i>	<i>Wadih Latif, +28 Nov. 2005</i>
<i>Najib Spiridon, +5 Nov. 1989</i>	<i>Nour Iskander Ayoub, +1 Nov., 2006</i>
<i>Joey Bicker, +20 Nov. 1990</i>	<i>John Peters, +15 Nov. 2006</i>
<i>Genevieve Akoury, +23 Nov. 1990</i>	<i>Donald Andrew Nassir, +28 Nov. 06</i>
<i>Earle J. Thompson, +25 Nov. 1990</i>	<i>Sumaya Khoury, +30 Nov. 2006</i>
<i>Cleo Saliba, +3 Nov. 1993</i>	<i>David Habeeb, +2 Nov. 2007</i>

<i>Adele Nicholas, +20 Nov. 1993</i>	<i>Anton Karam, +19 Nov. 2007</i>
<i>George Musalam, +4 Nov. 1994</i>	<i>Lucille Deeb, +24 Nov. 2007</i>
<i>Olga Handal, +7 Nov. 1994</i>	<i>Samy Srour, +31 Nov. 2007</i>
<i>Stephen Stelmack, +14 Nov. 1994</i>	<i>Evelyn Haddad, +27 Nov. 2009</i>
<i>Watfa Berry, +21 Nov. 1988</i>	<i>Laila Kabbash, +17 Nov. 2010</i>
<i>Elia Baida, +6 Nov. 1995</i>	<i>George Komashko, +24 Nov. 2010</i>
<i>Katherine Monsue, +18 Nov. 1996</i>	<i>Genevieve Antoniewicz, +25 Nov. 2010</i>
<i>Elena Farah, +15 Nov. 1997</i>	<i>Lorana Sweet, +10 Nov. 2011</i>
<i>Carim J. Rihbany, +2 Nov. 1973</i>	<i>Azenagash Woldemichael, +26 Nov. 12</i>
<i>Robert Nassief, +9 Nov. 1998</i>	<i>Helen Zaki, +16 Nov. 2013</i>
<i>Toufic Sweis, +10 Nov. 1998</i>	<i>Jose Noel Barba, +20 Nov. 2013</i>
<i>Vida Hapip, +14 Nov. 1998</i>	<i>Savinita Abdennour, +20 Nov. 2013</i>
<i>George Weisfuss, +17 Nov. 1998</i>	<i>Nour Iskander Ayoub, +2 Nov. 2014</i>
<i>Helen Rihbany, +6 Nov. 1999</i>	<i>Charles Stockstill, +2 Nov. 2015</i>
<i>Jamileh Sawalha, +2 Nov. 1999</i>	<i>David L. Obenhaus, Sr., +5 Nov. 2015</i>
<i>Odeh Kassis, +11 Nov. 2000</i>	<i>Dr. Mitchel Thabit, +30 Nov. 2015</i>
<i>Saide Simon, +13 Nov. 2000</i>	<i>Emil Ayoub, +14 Nov., 2016</i>
<i>Saide Mbarake, +27 Nov. 2001</i>	<i>John Bidwell, +25 Nov., 2016</i>
<i>Marie Nasser, +20 Nov. 2001</i>	<i>Sid Kraker, +27 Nov., 2016</i>
<i>Don Coury, +29 Nov. 2002</i>	<i>Thomas Tongate, +9 Nov., 2017</i>
<i>Nisrin Sayegh, +29 Nov. 2002</i>	<i>Bassem Azzam, +30 Nov., 2018</i>
<i>Joseph Mmona, +14 Nov. 2003</i>	<i>Dorothy Nelson, +16 Nov., 2019</i>

### **Memory Eternal!**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **College Contact Information**

We are formulating a list of our college students in order to keep in touch with our young adults away from home. Please contact Charmaine Darmour at: <[cdarmour@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cdarmour@sbcglobal.net)> who is formulating a list. Please provide the name and mailing address of each young adult. Thank you.

**Parish Council Meeting - Monday, November 17th, 7 p.m.**

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**The Feast of our Patron, Michael the Holy Archangel - November 8**

Vesperal Liturgy, Thursday, November 7, 6:30 p.m.

### **The 8th Sunday of Luke**

Saturday, November 9, Great Vespers, 5 p.m

Sunday, November 10 - Orthros, 8:45 a.m.,

Service of the Five Loaves,

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

### **Fast of the Holy Nativity - November 15 - December 24**

[This fast is divided into two periods: 1) November 15 - December 19 - the traditional fasting discipline includes no meat, poultry, dairy, fish, wine and olive oil on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with provision for wine and oil (some also permit fish) on Tuesdays and Thursdays; with fish, wine and olive oil on Saturdays and Sundays; 2) December 20-24 - the traditional fast is Monday through Friday with provision for wine and olive oil on Sunday, December 24.]

## CAUTION

**Please do not enter the construction zone inside of the fenced area.  
Parents: please supervise your children when outside of our building.  
Thank you.**

### **Teen SOYO Holiday Raffle**

Each year our Teens plan a fundraiser to support the National Teen SOYO Special Olympics Program annually held at the Antiochian Village in Western Pennsylvania. In addition 50% of the raffle proceeds is added to our parish teen program. Your support of our teen program would be greatly appreciated. The drawing will take place, as it does each year, at our Church School Christmas Program scheduled for December 8.

### **2020 Offering Envelopes**

An order for weekly offering envelopes will be placed on October 18. If you use weekly envelopes or would like to use them, please inform Mary Ann Coury as soon as possible at: [<maryanncoury@aol.com>](mailto:maryanncoury@aol.com).



**50th Anniversary Patronal Feast Day Luncheon**

**Plan to be with us, next Sunday, November 10th**

***Our parish family will again celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron, St. Michael, with a family friendly luncheon.***

***Menu: Hawaiian BBQ chicken and beef, macaroni salad, Hawaiian rolls, roasted vegetables, fresh fruit and pineapple upside down cake***  
***\$10/adults; \$5/child 11 and under;***  
***\$25/2 adults and 1 or more children (11 and under)***

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

**Holy Bread Offering List**

**Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar**

Nov 07 - the Mitchell family (Feast Day Liturgy)

Nov 10 - open

Nov 10 - 50th Anniversary Feast Day Luncheon

Nov 17 - Sonia Karam

Nov 17 - Sonia Karam

Nov 24 - open

Nov 24 - Carl Andrews

Dec 1 - the Hallak and Azzam families

Dec 1 - the Hallak and Azzam families

Dec 08 - open

Dec 08 - Church School Lenten Buffet

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

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

LAPD Valley Faith Summit - Thursday, November 7, 6-8 p.m.  
Our Lady of Peace Church (15444 Nordhoff; North Hills)

Patronal Feast Day of the Holy Archangel Michael - Friday, November 8  
Vesperal Divine Liturgy, Thursday, November 7; 6:30 p.m.

Father Timothy on Vacation: November 11-21

Day Retreat: "The Inner Heaven of Man: An Exploration of the Healing of  
Mind, Heart and Will According to the Teaching of St. Nicholas of Zica;  
led by V. Rev. John Finley - Saturday, November 23; 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
St. Barnabas Church (Costa Mesa)

Fast in Preparation of the Holy Nativity - November 15 to December 24  
St. Matthew Feast Day and Nativity Retreat

St. Matthew Church (Torrance), November 15-17; Father John Finley  
speaker: "Building a Christian Community in a Fractured World"  
Special Meeting of the Voting Membership - Sunday, November 24  
[for the purpose of accepting nominations for Council members]

Placing of the Dome Cross in Place - Sunday, November 24  
following the Divine Liturgy

Thanksgiving Weekend Iconography Retreat with Iconographer:  
Khouriye Randa Al Khoury Azar - November 25-30; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
with free hour lunch break; (TAHS 1020 Base Line Rd., La Verne 91750)

Parish Council Election:  
Sunday, December 1 and Sunday, December 8

"Sex Education in Public Schools: What Parents Should Know"  
Half-day Seminar by Dr. Keith Buhler, Saturday, December 7;  
1:30 to 4:15 p.m., St. Simeon Mission (Santa Clarita)

Young Adult "Ugly Sweater Party" - Saturday evening, December 7

Church School Christmas Program Rehearsal - Saturday, December 7  
Christmas Program - Sunday, December 8

Advent Retreat (St. Michael Church, Whittier)  
Speaker: Fr. Patrick Reardon

“St. Ignatius Sunday” - Sunday, December 22

The Feast of the Holy Nativity (Christmas) - Wednesday, December 25  
Christmas Eve Liturgy (Paramon), 3:30 p.m.; Christmas Day, 10 a.m.

## **2020 Parish Directory Updates**

Please be sure to speak with Samia Habib or respond to her e-mail the by next Sunday, November 10th, should you need to update your information for our new Parish Directory. Samia may be reached by phone at: 818-919-3870 or by e-mail at: <[sambur@juno.com](mailto:sambur@juno.com)>.

## **Fall Food Collection**

We are again assisting a local food pantry ("Loaves and Fishes") in their new location in Van Nuys. Please phone Cindy Tamoush at: 818-345-4363 if you are able to participate in our Thanksgiving and/or Christmas food collection. Here are ways that you may choose to participate:

1. If you'd like me to shop for you, write a check out to: "St. Michael Church," earmarked: "Holiday Food Collection" (tax deductible)
2. You may purchase grocery script in any amount. Don't forget to use your Ralph's Reward Card that will help St. Michael benefit from your purchase.
3. Due to the lack of space, Loaves and Fishes is requested any of the following items: personal care items, deodorant soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary napkins and disposable razors, large disposable diapers, men and women's socks, bottled water, and any store gift cards in \$5 or \$10 denominations. Please do not provide us with clothing or household items.

**All food items must be delivered to our church kitchen by Sunday, November 24 and/or Sunday, December 22.**

Thank you for your support,

Cindy Tamoush  
Charity Coordinator

**St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church  
of the San Fernando Valley**

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Michael:

The last quarter of 2019 is upon us and perhaps it is time to do some tax planning for our tax filings in the spring of 2020.

The 2019 Tax Law has changed our ability to deduct certain items and in other cases has capped the amount we are able to deduct. For instance, there is a cap on deductions for State Taxes and Property Taxes. The government however has not put a cap on the amount of Charitable Donations you are able to deduct according to your income.

We ask that you prayerfully consider St. Michael Church in your charitable giving to both benefit yourselves and in like manner benefit the church. There are several members of our parish who have neither pledged or donated to our new Building Fund Project and it is now time to do so. A pledge form is attached with this bulletin for your convenience. Also, listed below are several options to consider on how to donate to St. Michael Church:

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 50% 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.

One other possible means of doubling your donation is corporations that provide a Matching Funds Program. You should inquire with your company's Human Relations Office for more information.

May God grant you and your family His divine grace with continued health and prosperity.

In Christ,

Ron Zraick

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Chair, Capital Funds Campaign Committee  
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### **The Placing of the Dome Cross**

On Sunday, November 24, 2019 the holy cross will be placed at the top of the dome of our new church sanctuary. This will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy at approximately 11:30, just before the coffee hour on that day.

### **Parish Council Nominations**

On Sunday, November 24, 2019 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, 2020 to December, 2022). 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 Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla (Vice-Chair) [ending her first term; able to be nominated]; Carrie Sadd Khouri [ending her second term and unable to be nominated] and Michael Mitchell (Chair) [ending his second term and unable to be nominated]. Our three (3) one-year appointed members whose terms are expiring are: Eric Nelson (Secretary), [ending his eighth consecutive year (two three year terms and two appointed terms) and unable to be nominated]; Julie Bitar [ending her first appointed term and able to be nominated]; and Dan Raju [ending his first appointed term and able to be nominated]. The Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: December 1 and 8. Council members whose terms are unexpired are: Richard Ajalat, Joe Ayoub, Regan Hines, Adam Lamar, Deacon Andrew Monsue and Kris Thabit. Charmaine Darmour is also completing her ninth (9th) consecutive year as President of the Antiochian Women. Please speak with Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla (Vice-Chair) or Father Timothy should be interested in serving on our Parish Council.

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### **Senior Ride Option**

GOGO Grandparent is a safe and affordable transportation service for seniors needing a ride to and from any location. The company also provides assistance with seniors using walkers and wheelchairs. For more information go to: <[gogograndparent.com](http://gogograndparent.com)> or phone: 855-464-6872.

**PASTORAL SERMON**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Luke**  
**By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig**  
**November 3, 2019**

The lesson of the Fifth Sunday of Luke is among the lessons which introduce us to the season of Advent, that prepares us for the Feast which celebrates the birth of our Lord. It calls 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 earned 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 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 Father's. 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. The American professional sports billion dollar industry also does not guarantee that any one time can be guaranteed a championship. 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 face involuntary 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.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
and The Fifth Sunday of Luke

Martyrs Akepsimas, Joseph & Aeithalas of Persia;

Dedication of St. George Church in Lydda of Palestine

Hieromartyr George of Neapolis; Theodore the Confessor, bishop of Ancyra

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثالث

لتفرح السماويات وتبتهج الارضيات, لانّ الربّ صنعَ عزاً بساعده, ووطئ الموتَ بالموت, وصارَ بكرَ الاموات, وأنقذنا من جوفِ الجحيم, ومنح العالمَ الرحمةَ العظمى

شَهِدَاؤُكَ، يَا رَبُّ، بِجِهَادِهِمْ، نَالُوا مِنْكَ الْأَكَالِيلَ غَيْرَ الْبَالِيَةِ يَا إِلَهَنَا. لِأَنَّهُمْ أَحْرَزُوا قُوَّتَكَ، فَحَطَمُوا الْمُغْتَصِبِينَ وَسَحَقُوا بِأَسِّ الشَّيَاطِينِ الَّتِي لَا قُوَّةَ لَهَا. فَبِتَوَسُّلَاتِهِمْ، أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، خَلَّصَ نَفُوسَنَا

بِمَا أَنْكَ لِلْمَأْسُورِينَ مُحَرَّرٌ وَمُعْتَقٌ، وَلِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ عَاضِدٌ وَنَاصِرٌ، وَلِلْمَرْضَى طَبِيبٌ وَشَافٍ، وَعَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مُكَافِحٌ وَمُحَارِبٌ، أَيُّهَا الْعَظِيمُ فِي الشَّهَدَاءِ، جَاوَرَجِيوسُ الْبَلَابِسُ الظَّفَرُ، تَشْفَعُ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهُ فِي خَلَاصِ نَفُوسِنَا

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أَيُّهَا الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرَ الْمُسْتَحَقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَنْكُم بِظِلِّكُمْ تَكْتَنُفُونَنَا بِظِلِّ أَجْنَحَةِ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الْهَيُولِيِّ، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِثِينَ وَالصَّارِخِينَ بِغَيْرِ فِتْنَةٍ، أَنْقَذُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ، بِمَا أَنْكُم رُؤَسَاءَ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

قنداق السيدة على اللحن الثاني

يا شفيعة المسيحيين غير المخذولة, 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 وأسرعني في الطلبة, يا والدة الإله المتشفعة دائماً في مكرميك

## الرسالة

رَتَّلُوا لِإِلَهِنَا رَتَّلُوا. يَا جَمِيعَ الْأُمَّمِ صَفَّقُوا بِالْأَيْدِي.

**فَصَلُّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَةَ. (19-1:11)**  
 يَا إِخْوَةَ، أَعْلَمُكُمْ أَنَّ الْإِنْجِيلَ الَّذِي بَشَّرْتُ بِهِ، لَيْسَ بِحَسَبِ الْإِنْسَانِ \* لِأَنِّي لَمْ  
 أَتَسَلَّمُهُ أَوْ أَتَعَلَّمُهُ مِنْ إِنْسَانٍ، بَلْ بِإِعْلَانِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ \* فَإِنَّكُمْ قَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ  
 بِسِيرَتِي قَدِيمًا فِي مِلَّةِ الْيَهُودِ أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَضْطَهَدُ كَنِيْسَةَ اللَّهِ بِإِفْرَاطٍ وَأُدْمَرُهَا \*  
 وَأَزِيدُ تَقْدَمًا فِي مِلَّةِ الْيَهُودِ عَلَى كَثِيرِينَ مِنْ أَتْرَابِي فِي جَنْسِي، بِكُونِي أَوْفَرَ  
 مِنْهُمْ غَيْرَةً عَلَى تَقْلِيدَاتِ آبَائِي \* فَلَمَّا ارْتَضَى اللَّهُ، الَّذِي أَفْرَزَنِي مِنْ حَوْفِ  
 أُمِّي وَدَعَانِي بِنِعْمَتِهِ \* أَنْ يُعْلِنَ ابْنَهُ فِي لَبَشْرِهِ بَيْنَ الْأُمَّمِ، لِسَاعَتِي لَمْ أَصْغُ  
 إِلَى لَحْمٍ وَدَمٍ \* وَلَا صَعِدْتُ إِلَى أُورَشَلِيمَ إِلَى الرَّسُلِ الَّذِينَ قَبْلِي، بَلْ انطَلَقْتُ  
 إِلَى دِيَارِ الْعَرَبِ، وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ رَجَعْتُ إِلَى دِمَشْقَ \* ثُمَّ إِنِّي بَعْدَ ثَلَاثِ سِنِينَ،  
 صَعِدْتُ إِلَى أُورَشَلِيمَ لِأَزُورَ بَطْرُسَ، فَأَقَمْتُ عِنْدَهُ خَمْسَةَ عَشَرَ يَوْمًا \* وَلَمْ أَرَ  
 غَيْرَهُ مِنَ الرَّسُلِ سِوَى يَعْقُوبَ أَخِي الرَّبِّ.

## الإنجيل

### فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا

قال الرب كان رجلٌ غني يلبس الأرجوان والثياب الفاخرة وقيم الولائم كل يوم.  
 وكان رجلٌ فقيرٌ اسمه لعازر مطروحا عند بابه، مُصابا بالقروح، وكان يشتهي أن يشبع  
 من فضلات مائدة الغني، وكانت الكلاب تجيء وتلحس قروحه. ومات الفقير فنقلته  
 الملائكة إلى حضن إبراهيم، ومات الغني ودُفن. فرفع الغني عينيه إلى السماء وهو في  
 الجحيم يقاسي العذاب، فرأى إبراهيم عن بعدٍ ولعازر في حضنه، فنادى: رُحماك، يا أبي  
 إبراهيم، أرسل لعازر ليبلّ طرفَ إصبعه في الماءِ ويبردَ لساني، لأنني أتعذب كثيرا في  
 هذا اللهب. فقال له إبراهيم تذكر يا ابني، انك نلت خيراتك في حياتك، ونال لعازر  
 البلاء. وها هو الآن يتعزى وأنت تتعذب. وفوق كل هذا فبيننا وبينكم أقيمت هوة عميقة لا  
 يقدر أحدٌ أن يجتازها من عندنا إليكم، ولا من عندكم إلينا. فقال الغني: أسألك، يا أبي  
 إبراهيم، أن ترسل لعازر إلى بيت أبي لينذر أخوتي 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، 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