

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 stmichaelvanuys.org

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of all North America www.antiochian.org

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The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost and the Second Sunday of Luke

The Hieromartyr Hierotheos, bishop of Athens; Hieromartyr Peter of Capitolia in Syria; Martyrs Domnina and her daughters of Syria; Gurios, first Archbishop of Kazan and Barsanouphios, Bishop of Tver; and Martyrs Stephen (Stiljanovich) and Elizabeth of Serbia

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Tone 8; Eothinon 6

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 8)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)

*Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.*

**The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the
Corinthians (6:16 - 7:1)**

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them,” says the Lord, “and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

THE GOSPEL (for the Second Sunday of Luke)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (6:31-36)

The Lord said: “As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

The Synaxarion

On October 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Hierotheos, bishop of Athens.

Verses

Of old Hierotheos to Thee was consecrated;
Now gone hence, O Word, he hath to Thee been united.
On the fourth dawn, the grave covered Hierotheos.

He was a friend of Dionysios the Areopagite, and received the Christian faith from the Apostle Paul a little after Dionysios. This Apostle later made Hierotheos the first bishop of Athens. At the time of the Dormition of the most holy Mother of God, Hierotheos arrived in Jerusalem, carried by the clouds, and took part in the funeral. With his divine singing, he brought heartfelt joy to many and showed himself to be greatly inspired.

He labored greatly for the sake of the Gospel, brought many pagans to the truth, governed his flock well and finally ended a martyr for Christ in the first century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Peter of Capitolia in Syria; Martyrs Domnina and her daughters of Syria; Gurius, first archbishop of Kazan and Barsanouphios, bishop of Tver; and Martyrs Stephen (Stiljanovich) and Elizabeth of Serbia. By their intercessions, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered this morning by the Deeb family in loving memory of their mother and grandmother's ten-year memorial, Marion Deeb (+2 October, 2010). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered this morning by the Mimi & Nichola Hallak in memory of Fouad Azzam (+5 October, 2012), beloved brother and brother-in-law; with prayers for the health and safety of the whole family and those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Memory eternal.

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

for the speedy recovery and continued health, President Donald Trump, the First Lady, Melania, and the White House Staff.

by Sharon Katerelos for the recovery and good health of her daughter in law, Sheila Katerelos

for the continued health and well being of Dianna Bowen, the sister of Art Danks, and the members of their family.

by Sharon Katerelos for the recovery and good health of her daughter in law, Sheila Katerelos

by Maria Safady for the repose of the young Coptic Orthodox children who died in Westlake Village by an intoxicated driver: Jacob (9), and Mark (11) Iskander; and the consolation of their family. Memory eternal.

By Father Timothy for the three-year memorial of His Grace, Bishop ANTOUN (+2 October, 2017) of thrice-blessed memory.

by Rima Hage with congratulations to Ramez Hage celebrating his birthday (October 6). May God continue to grant him good health and happiness. We also congratulate Ramez & Rima, celebrating their 48th wedding anniversary (October 7). May God bless you both and grant you many more years! We love you, Teddy and Steven Hage and families.

by Pat Malouf for her husband, Michael Malouf, celebrating his birthday (October 5). May God grant him many years!
Also for the healing of her uncle, Edward Brady.

for the recovery and good health of Gabriel Habib.

Included in our prayers throughout the month of October are those celebrating their birthday: Anthony Botezatu (10/1), Jonathan Rowihab (10/1), Madelyn Manning (10/02), Natalie Dawud (10/4), Mitchel Thabit II (10/4), Joyce Salamy (10/4), Nicole Dunphy (10/6), Michael Malouf (10/5), Ramez Hage (10/6), Brooklyn Henry (10/6), Tom Homsey (10/6), Isabel Horaney (10/6), Dalila Bodden (10/07), Edna L. Deeb (10/8), Marisah Yazbek (10/8), Carrie Sadd Khouri (10/9), Bria McLinn (10/9), Christianna Randee Ababseh (10/10), Abigail Zaina Abughazaleh (10/10), Glenn Terry (10/10), Leilaney Ababseh (10/11), John Malouf (10/11), Mary Sarchizian (10/11), Jessica Abughazaleh (10/12), Samantha Abughazaleh (10/12), Tina Coury (10/12), Michael Nassir (10/12), Ed Chaffin (10/13), Michael Martsof (10/13), Jed Dabbour (10/14), Colin Gantus (10/14), Mark Nassir (10/14), Elie Yazbek (10/14), Aliyah Ababseh (10/15), Steven Abughazaleh (10/15), Nicole Lee Nasser Dunphy (10/15), Gavin Scott (10/15), Sophie Scott (10/15), Bill Klimowych (10/17), Audrianna Hage (10/18), Vera Ababseh (10/19), Natalie Malouf (10/19), Dena Sophia Nicola Swain (10/20), Christina Rygiol (10/20), Ameera Caroleen Abughazaleh (10/20), Leila Salamy (10/20), Iain Patrick Blair (10/23), Leilah Yanni (10/23), Justin Charles Coury (10/24), Charmaine Darmour (10/27), Sylvana Barney (10/28), Robert Homsey, Jr. (10/28), Natacha Yazbek (10/28), Keira Placeres (10/29), Ricky Nicola, Jr. (10/29), Alexandra Ibrahim (10/30), Dominique Ibrahim (10/30), Sherri Prewett Aciri (10/30), Mallory Murr (10/31), Elaine Srour (10/31); and celebrating their wedding anniversary: Mark & Alexandra Nassief (10/4), Collyn & Lisa Nielsen (10/6), George & Janet Saade (10/6), Ramez & Rima Hage (10/7), Christian & Lisa Gascou (10/7), Leslie & Mark Henry (10/09), Robert &

Amal Makhoul (10/10), Leilah & Daniel Lewin (10/11), Richard & Janice Khoury (10/20), Don & Lillian Meena (10/28), Frank & Margo Boyer (10/29), Father Minas & Presbyter Nicole Sarchizian (10/29), Magued & Sahar Wassef (10/30). May God grant them all many years!

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

William F. Cates +27 Oct. 1953	Guirguis Yostos, +22 Oct., 2004
Elias Nassief +20 Oct. 1956	Samia Malick, +8 Oct., 2006
Della H. Cates +11 Oct. 1963	Andrew Mittry, +Oct., 2007
Richard Zraick, +13 Oct. 1974	Dn. Fadel Mubarak, +15 Oct., 2007
Elsie Gallade, +4 Oct. 1978	Michael Abughazaleh, +17 Oct. 2007
Elsie Barkett Murray, +4 Oct. 1980	Evelyn Raies-Murr, +17 Oct. 2007
Cora May Spencer, +16 Oct. 1983	Elias Saadeh, +19 Oct. 1976
Frank G. Farris, +27 Oct. 1985	Philip Ryan, +18 Oct. 2007
Peter Meena, +27 Oct. 1989	Tove Kelsey, +3 Oct. 2008
Nicholas Barakat, +16 Oct. 1992	Miriam Saadeh, +1 Oct., 2009
Derek Jacob, +5 Oct. 1992	Yvonne Rihbany, +21 Oct. 2009
Nafie Saba-Skaff, +14 Oct. 1995	Josephine Nicola, +26 Oct., 2009
Sophie Yanni, +28 Oct. 1995	Eva Bandak, +10 Oct., 2009
Rose C. Farris, +1 Oct. 98	Marion Deeb, +2 Oct., 2010
Hanna Sweis, +4 Oct.	Ghalia Dares, +17 Oct, 2010
Toufic Thabet, +17 Oct.	Somaya Ghawi Rizik, +3 Oct., 2011
Jacqueline M. Nasser, +12 Oct. 1999	Khazma Makhoul, +7 Oct., 2011
Frank Palmer, +16 Oct. 1999	Esshak Sayegh, +10 Oct., 2011
Ghazi Ababseh, +23 Oct. 1999	Jack M. Malouf, +23 Oct., 2011
Mitry Saadeh, +Oct. 13	Fouad Azzam, +5 Oct., 2012
Tatsuo Kushida, +12 Oct., 1998	Adele Muamar, +4 Oct., 2013
Robert Jurado, +28 Oct. 1998	Antoine Maalouf, +29 Oct., 2013
Lillian Saliba Murr +12 October 2000	George Saba, +22 Oct., 2014
Saide Simon, +13 Oct. 2000	Lucille Arakalian, +1 Oct., 2015
Ramza Aboud, +18 Oct. 2000	May Kushida, +18 Oct., 2015
Irene Hopkins, +26 Oct. 2000	Evonne George, +11 Oct., 2016
Nancy Lee Downing, +19 Oct. 2002	Gretta Casalnuovo, +30 Oct., 2016
V. Rev. Paul Romley, +26 Oct., 2003	Kathleen O'Dea, +23 Oct., 2017
Mary Homsey, +31 Oct., 2003	Esma Khoury, +31 Oct., 2017
Marta Vaskis Erwin, +6 Oct., 2004	Julian Gota, +29 Oct., 2019

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 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost and the 3rd Sunday of Luke

Saturday, October 10th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 11th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Live-streaming Sunday Orthros and Liturgy

Plan to view all of our scheduled church services on-line by logging on to: either **FaceBook** or **YouTube** via our parish website: <www.stmichaelvannuys.org> Your church offering may be made on-line via our website "Donation" tab or by mailing your check to the church at: 16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406.

Church Attendance

We are currently limiting attendance at our church services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Parishioners must sign-up by informing Father Timothy to attend our services. Questions will also be answered by Father Timothy by e-mail at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org The Sacrament(s) are also available on weekdays by appointment.

Zoom Meeting Bible Study

Bible Study with Father Timothy — Tuesday, October 6th at 7 p.m. **Use the link and security password provided in the weekly parish e-mail.**

Note: Father Timothy would also welcome scheduling a Zoom Meeting with you and your family at any time by appointment. Simply e-mail him at <frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org>.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Join us Sundays at 1:30PM - 2PM

PRE-K - 12TH GRADES

<u>Class</u>	<u>Zoom Links</u>	<u>Meeting ID</u>	<u>Password</u> <i>(IF NEEDED)</i>
Pre-School - 2nd Grade	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032949246?pwd=bUZqNVNMOTHwa0RGTEEx4ZzArVjRFZz09	850 3294 9246	Class
3rd - 5th Grade	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9718141020?pwd=aHFUUmC5NHU3T0FvMkw2NHJlZ1FFQT09	971 814 1020	3rd5th
Jr. High (6 - 7th Grade)	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87257129611?pwd=QkcrSUJ0UHN2Ukt5ZElyWWRuNVVzQT09	872 5712 9611	juniorhigh
High School (8th - 12th Grade)	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83417257472?pwd=OZHtbXY3Y0JEc09STmV2bmNkRE1DUT09	834 1725 7472	Teens!

If you have any questions, please contact: Lila Coudsy, Church School Director-lcoudsy@aol.com

Adult Zoom Meeting: “The Relationship Project”

Join Father Timothy next Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 p.m. in weekly one-hour Zoom meetings on “The Relationship Project” produced by *Faithtree Resources*. Discover the struggles of young people and how we can best relate to their anxieties and challenges. The three-part program aims to build the primary relationships of a young person: with parents, priest, people of faith and friends. This curriculum was written by a team of Orthodox theologians, pastor-teachers, therapists, and youth workers, blessed by His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH. You can participate by logging on to the weekly Zoom links provided in the weekly parish e-mail.

Join in our Parish Bible Study Zoom Meetings

An “Orthodox Bible Study” provides a broad and complete study of the full context of Holy Scripture (Old and New Testament) It is a

comprehensive approach to understanding God's Word from Holy Tradition that includes: The Apostolic writings, Church Councils, the Canonical Texts, Patristic Sources, Liturgical Texts of Services and the experience of saints who have given testimony through their life as witnesses of the faith through the centuries. This week's "Virtual Bible Study Zoom Meeting" will take place on Tuesday evening, October 6th, at 7 p.m. Each study is limited to one hour. **This week's topic is the first of a new series on The Book of Revelation: It's Understanding and Use in the Orthodox Church.** For recorded sessions or study guides, e-mail Father Timothy at: <frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org>.

Parish Council Nominations

On Sunday, November 15, 2020 we will be holding a brief Virtual 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 Joe Ayoub [ending his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]; Adam Lamar [ending his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]; and Deacon Andrew Monsue [completing his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]. Our one-year appointed members whose terms are expiring are: Julie Bitar [second year appointed], and Michael Mitchell [first year appointed]. The Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: November 22 and 29. Council members whose terms are unexpired are: Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla, Regan Hines, John Khouri, Subdeacon Richard

Ajalat, Dan Raju, and Kris Thabit. Charmaine Darmour is also completing her tenth (10th) consecutive year as President of the Antiochian Women. All interested in serving on the Parish Council should contact: Connie Barilla, Nominations Chair at: cmatthews46@yahoo.com

Building Fund Update

We are still unable to have a clear date for the completion of our Church Building Project for a very important reason: A certified occupancy will be granted by the City of Los Angeles when the Department of Building and Safety verifies that we have complied with the peripheral requirements of our site plan. This means we cannot and may not be able to complete the project without a line of credit (loan) with a lending institution or a parishioner loan program. Some additional LA City requirements may be expected to be completed as a prerequisite for our occupancy.

At the current time we have invested 2.7 million dollars to reach our goal of having a watertight building. As of August 31st we have 1.2 million dollars within our construction Building Fund Account of which one-half of the amount is already committed under contract with third party contractors currently working on the site. By January of 2021 we will have contractually obligated the remainder one-half of the account funds for additional new construction work. Without additional funding it will greatly impede our ongoing progress as we will be unable to contract for any additional work to be done on the project. As has been expressed in the past we estimate our shortfall will be approximately five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) to complete the project.

Your urgent financial help is needed between now and the end of 2020. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation between now and the end of the year to take advantage of any Tax Benefits that would be available to you. It is worth noting that under the CARES ACT (for 2020 ONLY), if you itemize your tax return (without taking the standard deduction: \$24,000 for couples and \$12,400 for most single tax filers) your contribution is 100% deductible instead of 60% as has been the case for years. For more information on a pledge commitment or sponsorship, please contact Ron Zriack at [<ronaldzraick@gmail.com>](mailto:ronaldzraick@gmail.com) or Father Timothy at: [<frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org>](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org).

**FELLOWSHIP OF
ANTIOCHIAN MEN**

DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES & THE WEST

With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph

**THE CHRISTIAN MAN
& THE JESUS PRAYER**

Fr. David Hovik

PART TWO

OCT 6, 2020 @6:30PM PST

FACEBOOK LIVE

FACEBOOK.COM/DLAWANTIOCHIANMEN

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

DIOCESE FALL GATHERING & ANTIOCHIAN MEN MEETING

OCT 10, 2020 @ 9:00AM

REGISTER AT WWW.SAINT-MATTHEW.NET/FALLGATHERING

NEXT PRESENTATION

OCT 27, 2020 @ 6:30PM

DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES AND THE WEST

2020 VIRTUAL FALL GATHERING

CALLING ALL THE FAITHFUL

*for a special address
to the Diocese by
our Father in Christ,
His Eminence,
Metropolitan Joseph*



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9:00 AM | Metropolitan Address to the Diocese |
| 10:00 AM | Organizational Meetings:
Antiochian Women
Fellowship of Antiochian Men
Young Adult Ministry
Teen SOYO |

Register at <https://saint-matthew.net/fallgathering>
Details and Links provided on registration.

Upcoming Events

October is “Youth Month” in the Antiochian Archdiocese”

Virtual “Fall Gathering” - Saturday, October 10, 10 a.m.
hosted by St. Matthew Church, Torrance, California

Patronal Feast of the Holy Archangel Michael - Saturday, November 7

Special Virtual Meeting of the Voting Membership, Sunday, November 15

The 57th “Sweetheart Ball” - Universal Hilton (**November 28, 2020**)

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Oct 11 - open

Oct 18 - open

Oct 25 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Note: There are no Coffee
Hours scheduled

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread.

Personal Tours of our New Church Sanctuary

Personal tours are being scheduled by appointment for all who are interested in designated “sponsorships” or “dedications” of various parts of the new church sanctuary that are available. The tour will also provide answers to questions. Please contact Father Timothy for more information at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

PASTORAL SERMON **The Second Sunday of Luke** **By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig** **October 4, 2020**

Today’s Gospel lesson is taken from our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount. It includes what has been commonly known as The Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” It is the basic principle of morality presupposing

all that we share in common with all human beings. You and I – all of us want to be treated fairly, especially when it pertains to matters which involve our role in society as citizens or members of an organization. Children can be very sensitive to the subject of fairness.

However, Christian morality only **begins** with the Golden Rule. Christian morality involves something more than the idea of fairness—and this is the point of today’s lesson. **Christian morality is anchored not only on the principle of fairness, it goes beyond it.**

The Lord said, “As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.”

Similarly, we hear the Holy Apostle Paul write: (Romans 12:9-21) Never pay back evil for evil... If it is possible, as much as (it) depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, *Vengeance is Mine, I will repay*, says the Lord. Therefore, *if your enemy is hungry feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink...* Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The entire context our Lord’s teaching in the Gospel proves that Christian moral ethics is not the same as Judaic moral ethics. Over and over again, Jesus’ words begin with the phrase: *You’ve heard it said... but I say unto you...*

In St. Matthew’s Gospel we hear the same lesson beginning with the words: *You have heard it said, “Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you: Love your enemies, [bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you], and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your heavenly Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:43-45)*

The Golden Rule heard in today's Gospel is a case of simple justice—taught in the Old Covenant law: *an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth*... however, in the Lord's teaching: returning deed for deed is placed in positive terms.

In Jesus' day, the Golden Rule was also taught in its negative form by Rabbi Hillel. Rabbi Hillel said: *do not do to others whatever you do not wish them to do to you*. Now, **why do you think that Jesus chose to express the Golden Rule in positive terms?**

The world we live in today is not very different from the mentality that preoccupied the thinking of people in Jesus' day. We see and hear a great deal of bad news each day and experience tremendous sadness to the point that we become numb and callous about what can be done to change things; to make a positive difference in our world; to correct situations. Things that go wrong seem to be the norm. There is a great deal of injustice and fairness doesn't seem possible.

As I was preparing for this message I gave a lot of thought about how difficult it is for children to understand this message in light of fairness. Being treated fairly is something that a child can become very sensitive to. It's because children need our love and attention.

Today's gospel lesson should not be interpreted in such a way to imply that Christians are pacifists. Any notion that practicing what is being taught in today's lesson strips a Christian of his/her dignity is totally false. Christians believe in justice and mutual respect. Consequently, is not unchristian to act or respond for the cause of what is just and right. **Instead, the important point is that we do not respond in the same manner as others do.** There are ways to properly respond in each and every circumstance. Our response, however, is not to act or behave in ways that cause us to be identified with those whose purpose is to do evil or to harm others; or in cases of war - to become what our enemy is.

The personal price of a positive response is always greater for the Christian. This is because as **Christians we do not understand and perceive the struggle or the battle in the same way as others do.** Hence it is necessary that a Christian recognize that **being a disciple requires personal sacrifices; and that this includes everything about our life: as a husband or wife, a father or mother, or even a person who may be single.**

We believe that Christ has overcome the world and all evil. His words recorded in St. John's Gospel are: "In the world you will have tribulation but take courage, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33b). Moreover, Christ triumphed over the Evil One; "trampled down death," transforming it to a means of life by His own Death. There is nothing more to be done or to think that what Christ has accomplished is somehow incomplete. What He has done was something that only He could do. His very words on the Cross were: "It is finished!" And so our battles, are battles of the Cross that each of us is called to accept. The Cross we bear, however, is the an armament for our salvation. It is called, "a weapon of peace."

Jesus taught the meaning of love by example. It is the principle of unconditional and sacrificial love. Christ's Golden Rule is taking one's neighbor upon oneself just as the Good Samaritan had compassion on the wounded Jew, a supposed enemy, and interrupted his own journey in order to help him.

Christ Himself is the supreme model of the Good Samaritan seeking to bind and heal humanity's wounds, and suffering persecution in the process. He voluntarily submitted to abuse, insults, beatings, betrayal and crucifixion by those whom He came to help! From the Cross He prayed: *Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.* Christ lived out His own teaching about love: *The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them (John 15:13).*

There are those who think that the teachings of Christ are extremely difficult and that we would be foolish to even try to practice them. They are partly correct. The teachings of Christ are not only difficult . . . they are impossible for those whose life has not changed, whose life is always about "getting even." A Christian believes that his or her life is living with a renewed nature; as one who has been forgiven and believes in the practice of forgiveness. As Christians we could not possibly live according to the teaching of Christ unless we lived in the spiritual realm of the grace of God.

Christian morality is not a matter of human efforts trying to measure up to the highest standards ever imaginable, which would always end up in failure, but it is a way of life in union with Christ through which we receive forgiveness and spiritual power enabling us to live according to Christ's teachings. **You and I cannot forgive others unless we know and have experienced God's forgiveness for ourselves.**

Without this life will only be miserable. In fact without God's forgiveness, there is only hell's torment. In the same way you and I cannot be merciful if you and I do not know what it means to receive mercy. And finally no one will know how to love unconditionally unless he or she personally knows the full meaning of the Cross.

The core of the Good News of Christ is not a set of ethical standards, but it is about living as a citizen of the Kingdom of God by being united to Christ. Jesus lived, taught and acted in the fullness of the Holy Spirit in complete submission to the will of His Father - our Heavenly Father. The Apostles preached and served others by the power of the Holy Spirit as men and women who knew that they were loved and forgiven; some, like Peter and Paul, who personally experienced God's mercy in ways that were unimaginable. We live our lives by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Thus Christian morality cannot be viewed in isolation from our total life as baptized Christians, who are here and now, today and tomorrow: citizens of God's Kingdom, and live by the power of God's grace.

EOTHINON 6

الايوثينا 6

TONE 8

اللحن 8

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AND THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LUKE**

HIEROMARTYR HIEROTHEOS, BISHOP OF ATHENS; HIEROMARTYR PETER OF CAPITOLIA IN SYRIA;
MARTYRS DOMNINA AND HER DAUGHTERS OF SYRIA; GURIOS, FIRST ARCHBISHOP OF KAZAN AND
BARSANOUPHIOS, BISHOP OF TVER; AND MARTYRS STEPHEN (STILJANOVICH) AND ELIZABETH OF SERBIA

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثامن

انحدرت من العلويا متحنن، وقبلت الدفن ذا الثلاثة الأيام، لكي نُعِنَقنا من الآلام، فيا حياتنا وقيامتنا يا ربَّ المجدُّ لك.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيها المتقدِّمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسَّلُ إليكم نحن غير المستحقِّين، حتَّى أنكم بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظلِّ أجنحة مجدكم غير الهيولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجائين والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوَّات العلوية.

قنداق السيدة على اللحن الثاني

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

الرسالة

صَلُّوا وَأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَنَا.

الله معروف في أرض يهوذا. إسمه عظيم في إسرائيل.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية إلى أهل كورنثوس.
يا إخوة، أنتم هيكل الله الحي، كما قال الله "إني سأسكن فيهم، وأسير فيما بينهم، وأكون لهم إلهاً وهم يكونون لي شعباً" * فلذلك اخرجوا من بينهم واعتزلوا "يقول الرب" ولا تمسوا نجساً * فأقبلكم وأكون لكم أباً وتكونون أنتم لي بنين وبنات، يقول الرب القدير" * وإذ لنا هذه المواعد، أيها الأحباء، فلنظهر أنفسنا من كل أدناس الجسد والروح، ونكمل القداسة بمخافة الله.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.
قال الرب: "كما تريدون أن يفعل الناس بكم، كذلك افعلوا أنتم بهم" * فإنكم إن أحببتم الذين يحبونكم، فأيّة منة لكم؟ فإن الخطاة أيضاً يحبون الذين يحبونهم * وإذا أحسنتم إلى الذين يحسنون إليكم، فأيّة منة لكم؟ فإن الخطاة أيضاً هكذا يصنعون * وإن أقرضتم الذين ترجون أن يستوفوا منهم، فأيّة منة لكم؟ فإن الخطاة أيضاً يقرضون الخطاة لكي يستوفوا منهم المثل * ولكن، أحبوا أعداءكم، وأحسنوا وأقرضوا غير مؤمّلين شيئاً، فيكون أجركم كثيراً، وتكونوا بني العلي. فإنه منعم على غير الشاكرين والأشرار * فكونوا رُحماءً كما أن أباكم هو رحيم.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا تقتصر 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