

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 Paramon (Pre-Feast) of Holy Theophany

Commemorating the Martyrs Theopemptos the Bishop of Nicomedia and Theonas the former magician; Venerable Syncletica of Alexandria; Venerable-martyr Romanos of Athos

Sunday, January 03, 2021

Tone 5; Eothinon 8

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion for the Forefeast of Holy Theophany (Tone 4)

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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 of the Paramon of Holy Theophany (Tone 4)

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday before Holy Theophany)

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God.*

The Reading from St. Paul's Epistle to Timothy (4:5-8)

My child Timothy, be watchful in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the season of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, and I have guarded the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will reward me at that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved His appearing.

THE GOSPEL (for the Sunday before Holy Theophany)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to Mark (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Synaxarion – January 3rd

On January 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the second day of the Forefeast of the Theophany of Christ, we commemorate the holy Prophet Malachi.

Verses

Malachi, who boasteth to be named Angel,
boasteth yet more in that he standeth with Angels.
On the third Malachi's soul flew from things fleeting.

He was chronologically the last of the prophets, born after the return of the Jews from exile in Babylon in 538 B.C. He was unusually fair of face. According to tradition, he was nicknamed “the angel” perhaps because of his outward fairness, or because of his purity of spirit, or because of his companionship with an angel, with whom he often spoke face to face. At these times, others also heard its voice but were not worthy to look on its face. The young prophet spoke forth that which the angel revealed to him. Malachi cried out against the ingratitude of Israel and the sins of the priests. Five hundred years before Christ, he clearly foretold the coming and work of John the Baptist (Mal. 3:1). Malachi was chiefly the prophet of the Day of Judgment (Mal. 3:19-21). Malachi went to God young in years, and after him there was no prophet in Israel until John the Baptist, the last of all prophets.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Gordios of Cappadocia; Venerable Thomais the wonderworker of Lesbos; and Venerable Genevieve of Paris. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

A Note Regarding Holy Communion

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, *only* those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent Confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is also being offered by Ron & Kathy Zraick in memory of Ron’s father, Isaac Zraick (+3 January, 1965), and aunt Pauline Haddad (+9 January, 1997). May their memories be eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered this morning by the Srour and Cruz family in loving memory of Lila Rihbany Awad (+27 December, 2020), beloved sister, and aunt. Memory eternal.

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

for Dr. Cindy Alberts-Carson, celebrating her birthday,
the Goddaughter of Mae Tortolano. May God grant her many years!

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Nicholas Nassir
(+28 December, 2020), beloved father of Andrew Nasser

Included in our prayers throughout the month of January are those celebrating their birthday: Eid Esshak Sayegh and Esshak Eid Sayegh (1/1), Steven Hage (1/4), Sophia Sweis (1/5), Vanessa Coury (1/5), Darryl Thomas (1/6), Silva Aftimos (1/8), Mark Hannah (1/8), Nizar Shahwan (1/8), Peter Joseph Turk (1/8), Nancy Sawalha (1/9), Christian Ablahad (1/10), Marilee Ajalat (1/12), Yvonne Farr (1/12), Britton McLinn (1/12), Daniel Kneizeh (1/12), Robert Abraham (1/13), Diana Thabit (1/13), Michael Baclig (1/14), Marcel A. Haddad (1/14), Ghada Mansur (1/15), Violet Kavan (1/15), Abigail Elizabeth Abraham (1/15), Kevin Homsy (1/16), Joe Kence (1/16), Christopher Dodds (1/17), Kelly Meena (1/17), Brandon Terry (1/17), Mary Ann Coury (1/18), Justin Henry (1/18), Jeanice Gantus (1/20), John Sweis (1/20), Albert Coury, Jr. (1/21), Christopher Matarese (1/21), Chad Manning (1/22), Sophia Rose Rygiol (1/22), Jeanette Tarbouche (1/22), Leslie Thabet (1/22), Christine Tarbouche (1/23), Riad Aftimos (1/24), Shereen Manning (1/24), Alek Milkie (1/24), Anastasia Panga (1/27), Dejan Bozic (1/28), Tere Shimizu (1/28), Rita Makhoul (1/30), Rami Yanni (1/30), Vanessa Murr (1/31); and those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Nicole & Robert Webster (1/1), Cathy & Joe Durrett (1/3), Adeeb & Nuha AbuGhazaleh (1/11), Walid & Isabel Kneizeh (1/17), and Cynthia & Nicholas Bibby (1/21); May God grant them all many years!

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

Anna Saadeh +15 Jan. 1963

Issac Zraick, +3 Jan. 1965

Sleyman M. Namay, +11 Jan. 1966

Alice Gadallah +Jan. 1972

Dorothy Fadel +6 Jan. 1973

Malakeh Saliba +14 Jan. 1975

Fouad K. Mittry +20 Jan. 1975

Frieda George +17 Jan. 1976

Marianne D. Halaby +27 Jan. 1997

John Mansur +16 Jan. 1981

John G. Khouri +27 Jan. 1981

Matilda Zahlaoui +22 Jan. 2000

Samir Aftimos +24 Jan. 2001

Shaker Nicholas Ayoub +Jan. 2002

Aida Boutari +5 Jan. 2002

Nazira Abdelhak +9 Jan. 2002

Albert Thomas +17 Jan. 2005

Bill Shedd +17 Jan. 2007

Elinor Bourjaily +4 Jan. 2008

Dr. John Abdun-Nur +31 Jan. 2008

Assad Dawud +25, Jan. 2010

Lorna Shedd +27, Jan. 2010

Alphonse Bonjianne +9 Jan. 1982
Aziz Baskhyroun +Jan. 1985
George Sadd +13 Jan. 1985
Sandra Pettit +17 Jan. 1985
Michael D. Fayard +16 Jan. 1988
Mandouh Boutros +12 Jan 1989
Emile Boutari +30 Jan. 1990
Shirley Jacobs +11 Jan. 1990
Marie Aboud +Jan. 1990
Lila Bastron +25 Jan. 1991
Margaret Gantus +1 Jan. 1992
Joseph Abrahms +21 Jan. 1992
Toofic Simon +12 Jan. 1996
Lucille T. Maddox +1 Jan. 1997
Eva Meena +8 Jan. 1997
Edward Deeb +11 Jan. 1997
Haifa Ellis +29 Jan. 1997
Michael T. Haddad +1 Jan. 1998
Phyllis Mittry +16 Jan. 1998
Madeline Bediali +9 Jan. 1999
Saman Simon +23 Jan. 1999
Eva Nichols +28 Jan. 1999
Helen Kirshy +18 Jan. 2000

Assad Najjar +31 Jan. 2010
George Coury +3 Jan. 2011
Steven Peck +15 Jan. 2011
Archpriest Antonios +23 Jan. 2011
Usguhi Sarchizian +9 Jan. 2012
Robert Peck +19 Jan. 2012
Linda Simon +10 Jan. 2013
Elia Qushair +12 Jan. 2013
David James Satel +12 Jan. 2013
Olga Judes Massou +2 Jan. 2015
Norman Mamey +22 Jan. 2015
Vladimir Petrov +27 Jan. 2015
Nelly M. Zacky +15 Jan. 2016
Huda Elshaer +20 Jan. 2016
Louis Slemon +17 Jan. 2016
Areij Rabadi +19 Jan. 2017
Moses "Ricky" Namay +29 Jan. 2017
Gregory Habib +18 Jan., 2019
Nancy Farha +23 Jan., 2019
Jeff Gazale +4 Jan., 2020
Hanna Harb +3 Jan., 2020
Dr. S. Jim Farha +17 Jan., 2020
Roger Hunt +28 Jan., 2020

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.

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Jan 05-06 - (Theophany) open
Jan 10 - Charmaine and Ramona Darmour
Jan 17 - open
Jan 24 - 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.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

THE GREAT FEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY)

Tuesday, January 5th – The Eve of Theophany (*Paramon*) [observed as a strict fast day]

Prayers of The Royal Hours: 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m. [Live-streamed]

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great,* 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 6th – Festal Orthros, 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by

The Great Blessing of the Waters and The Festal Divine Liturgy,* 10 a.m.

[Live-streamed]

The Synaxis of John the Baptist – January 7

The Sunday after Holy Theophany

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your Cooperation is Appreciated

In order to close our 2020 financial records in a timely manner all checks to be recorded for the previous year, dated: December 31, 2020 must be turned in to the Church Office by tomorrow, January 4, 2021. Please be sure that your check is properly earmarked. Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2021 form (provided on our parish website: <https://www.stmichaelvanmichaelvannuys.org/donate/>). Your pledge or tithe supports the church's day-to-day operating expenses, which, like our personal expenses, are expected to increase in 2021. Thank you in advance, for your commitment. May God grant you and your family enjoy a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Virtual Annual Parish Meeting, Report Booklet

The Virtual Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2021, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. In the best interest of time, a Report Booklet is being prepared for distribution to our membership prior to the Annual Meeting. All Council officers, Standing Committees and Subsidiary Organizations are reminded that their single page reports are due today, January 3, 2021 in order to be compiled and printed in time for distribution on January 24, 2021.

House Blessings

Father Timothy has postponed the scheduling the blessing of homes. While visits to your home and house blessings may occur at **any day of the year**, Father will be scheduling many blessings of homes up until the time for Great Lent: March 2, 2021. You may phone him to plan for his visit. A priority will be made for our members in new homes and the new members of our parish.

Holy Water Available for Distribution

Holy Water will be available to all at the end of the service on January 6. There is no prohibition to anyone receiving or drinking Holy Water. Plastic bottles will be available for Holy Water distribution by contacting Subdeacon Richard Ajalat. Please provide an offering to help cover the cost of the bottle. Thank you.

Calendar for:	2020	2021	2022
First Day of Great Lent	March 02	March 15	March 07
Holy Pascha	April 19	May 02	April 24
Western Easter	April 12	April 04	April 17
Feast of Theophany	Monday		January 6, 2020
Meat Fare Sunday	Sunday		February 23, 2020
Feast of the Annunciation.	Wednesday		March 25, 2020
Feast of the Ascension	Thursday		May 28, 2020
Pentecost	Sunday		June 7, 2020
Feast of the Nativity	Friday		December 25, 2020

Church Attendance and Guidance for COVID-19 Testing

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. If you have been in contact with someone who is diagnosed with the COVID virus you should be tested and self-quarantine at home for seven (7) to ten (10) days, especially if you have no symptoms. Should your results show that you are “negative” but develop symptoms during your quarantine, you should be retested. Questions will be answered by Father Timothy by e-mail at: <frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org>.

Church School Recess

Church School is currently in a Christmas recess. Classes will resume on January 10, 2021; the Pre-Feast of Holy Theophany.

Zoom Meeting Virtual Bible Study

Bible Study with Father Timothy — will resume on Tuesday, January 12th at 7 p.m. A Zoom link and security password provided in a weekly parish e-mail. Each study is limited to one hour. 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.

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>.

Parish Council Meeting – Monday, January 18th, 7 p.m.

Upcoming Events

20th Annual Youth Directors Virtual Conference
January 28-29, 2021

St. Michael Annual Virtual Meeting of the Voting Membership
Sunday, January 31, 2021

Antiochian Clergy Diocesan Virtual Seminar
Monday, February 8, 2021

The 57th "Sweetheart Ball" - Universal Hilton
(tentatively scheduled on: **March 6, 2021**)

2021 Diocesan Parish Life Conference - **July 1-4, 2021 (TBD)**
Host: Ss. Mark and Barnabas Church (Orange County)

EOTHINON 7
7 الابوثينا

tone 5
5 اللحن

THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

HOLY PROPHET MALACHI; MARTYR GORDIOS OF CAPPADOCIA;
VENERABLE THOMAS THE WONDERWORKER OF LESBOS; VENERABLE GENEVIEVE OF PARIS

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الخامس
لنسيخ نحن المؤمنين ونسجد للكلمة، المساوي للآب والروح في الأزلية وعدم الابتداء،
المولود من العذراء لخلصنا، لأنه سرّ أن يصعد بالجسد على الصليب ويحمل الموت،
وينهض الموتى بقيامته المجيدة

استعدي يا زبولون وتهيبي يا نفتاليم، وأنت يا نهر الأردن قف وممسكاً عن جريك، واقبل
السيد بفرح أتياً ليعتمد. إطرب يا آدم وابتهج مع الأم الأولى، ولا تخفيا ذاتكما كما
اختلفتما في الفردوس قديماً، لأنه لما رآكما عراً، ظهر ليلبسكما الحلة الأولى. المسيح
ظهر مريداً أن يجدد الخليقة كلها.

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

اليوم حَضَرَ الرَّبُّ فِي مَجَارِي الْأُرْدُنِّ، هَاتِفًا نَحْوَ يوحَنَّا وَقَائِلًا: لَا تَجْزَعُ مِنْ تَعْمِيدِي،
لَأَنِّي أَتَيْتُ لِأَخْلِصَ آدَمَ الْمَجْبُولَ أَوَّلًا.

الرسالة

ميراثك وبارك شعبك ربُّ يا خَلِّصْ.

إلهي، أَصْرُحْ رَبُّ يَا إِلَيْكَ.

تيموثاوس إلى الثانية الرسول بولس القديس رسالة من فصل

(4:5-8)

المُبَشِّرِ عَمَلٍ وَاعْمَلْ، المَشَقَّاتِ وَاحْتَمَلْ شَيْءٌ كُلٌّ فِي تَبَقُّظٍ، تيموثاوس وُلِدِي يَا
وَقَدْ *أَقْتَرَبَ قَدْ انْحِلَالِي وَوَقْتُ عَلَيَّ السَّكِيْبُ أُرِيْقُ فَقَدْ أَنَا أَمَا *خِدْمَتِكَ وَأَوْفٍ
يَبْقَى وَإِنَّمَا *الإيمانَ وَحَفِظْتُ، شَوْطِي وَأَتَمَمْتُ، الحَسَنَ الجِهَادَ جَاهَدْتُ
، العَادِلُ الدِّيَانُ الرَّبُّ اليَوْمِ ذَلِكَ فِي يَهْ يَجْزِينِي الَّذِي العَدْلُ إِكْلِيلُ لِي مَحْفُوظًا
أَيْضًا ظُهُورَهُ يُحِبُونَ الَّذِينَ جَمِيعَ بَلْ، فقط إِيَّاي لَا

الإنجيل

والتلمذ البشير الإنجيلي مرقس القديس بشارته من شريف فصل

(1:1-8) الطاهر

مُرْسِلُ هَاءَ نَدَا "، الأنبياء في مَكْتُوبٌ هُوَ كَمَا، اللهُ ابْنُ المَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ إنجيل بدء
طَرِيقَ أَعْدُوا: البرية في صَارِحَ صَوْتٌ *قَدَامَكَ طَرِيقَكَ يَهِيئُ وَجْهَكَ أَمَامَ مَلَائِكِي
التوبة بِمَعْمُودِيَّةٍ وَيَكْرِزُ البرية فِي يُعَمِّدُ يوحَنَّا كَانَ *"قَوِيْمَةً سَبْلَهُ وَاجْعَلُوا الرَّبَّ
فِيَعْتَمِدُونَ وَأَوْرُشَلِيمَ اليهوذية بَلَدِ أَهْلِ جَمِيعِ إِلَيْهِ يَخْرُجُ وَكَانَ *الخطايا لِعُفْرَانِ
، الإبل وَبِرَ يَلْبَسُ يوحَنَّا وَكَانَ *بخطاياهم مُعْتَرِفِينَ الأُرْدُنِّ نَهْرٍ فِي مِنْهُ جَمِيعُهُمْ
إِنَّهُ: قَائِلًا يَكْرِزُ وَكَانَ *بَرِيًّا وَعَسَلًا جَرَادًا وَيَأْكُلُ، جِلْدٍ مِنْ مَنطِقَةِ حَقْوِيهِ وَعَلَى
*حذائِهِ سَيْرٌ وَأَحْلُ أَنْحَنِي أَنْ أَسْتَحِقَّ لَا وَأَنَا، مِنِّي أَقْوَى هُوَ مَنْ بَعْدِي يَأْتِي
، القُدُسُ بِالرُّوحِ فِيَعْمِدُكُمْ هُوَ وَأَمَّا، بِالماءِ عَمَدْتُكُمْ أَنَا

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 في الكنيسة الارثوذكسية