

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
Archpriest Timothy Baclig, Pastor frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org
Rev. Fr. Minas Sarchizian, Assisting Priest fatherminas@gmail.com
Rev. Deacon Andrew Monsue armcopper@gmail.com
Subdeacon Richard Tamoush Tamoush.Richard@gmail.com
Subdeacon Magued Wassef wassefm@msn.com
Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Pastoral Assistant rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.com
Parish Council Chair - Kris Thabit kthabit66@hotmail.com
Council Vice-Chair - Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla cmatthews46@yahoo.com
Council Secretary - John Khouri johngkhouri@gmail.com
Council Treasurer - Julie Bitar jbitar027@gmail.com

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of No. America (AOCWNA)

Chapter President - Charmaine Darmour cdarmour@sbcglobal.net
Choir Director - Art Danks artdanks1@yahoo.com
Church School Director - Lila Coudsy lcoudsy@aol.com
Youth Director - Cooper Rowe crowe31@gmail.com
Young Adult Director - Richard Ajalat rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org
Young Parents' Ministry - Brittney Ajalat brittneylee704@gmail.com
Faithtree Resources Exec. Director - Michelle Moujaes michelle@faithtree.org
Project Manager - Michael J. Malouf michael@jacksonia.com
Stewardship Chair - Richard Tamoush Tamoush.Richard@gmail.com
Capital Funds Campaign Chair - Ron Zraick ronaldzraick@gmail.com
Property Management Chair - Eric Nelson ericnelson2520@sbcglobal.net
Bookstore Manager - Bobbi Monsue bobbi_monsue@att.net
Golf Classic Chair - Fred Milkief milkief@aol.com
Webmaster - Dan Raju dan.raju16@hotmail.com
Coffee Hour Coordinator - Cindy Tamoush famtam5@socal.rr.com
Head Usher - Ramez Hage jeddo.ramez@gmail.com

The Beheading of the Forerunner and Baptist John

Venerable Theodora of Thessalonica; Theopistis and Joseph the Sanctified of Samaka

Sunday, August 29, 2021

Tone 1; Eothinon 10

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

Apolytikion of the Baptist's Beheading (Tone 2)

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Whom they had proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who taketh away the sin of the world, and granteth us Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of 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 of the Theotokos (Tone 4)

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Baptist)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Harken unto my voice, O God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (13:23-33)

In those days, as John was fulfilling his course, he said, "Who do you suppose that I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me the shoes of whose feet I am not worthy to unloose." Men, brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you is the word of this salvation sent forth. For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read on every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him. And though they found no cause of death in Him, yet they asked Pilate that He should be slain. And when they had fulfilled all the things that were written of Him, they took Him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead; and for many days He was seen by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now His witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled the same to us their children, in that He raised up Jesus again.

THE GOSPEL (for the Baptist)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (6:14-30)

At that time, Jesus' Name had become known, and King Herod heard of it. Some said, "John the Baptizer has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in Him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod had sent and seized John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. For John said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias' daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant

it.” And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” And she went out, and said to her mother, “What shall I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptizer.” And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. The Apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

The Synaxarion

On August 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the beheading of the holy, honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

Verses

A defiled and blood-stained hand now cutteth off with the sword
The head of him who placed his hand on the head of the Lord.

On the twenty-ninth a bronze edge cut the neck of the Forerunner.

Herod Antipas, son of the Herod who slew the young children in Bethlehem at the time of the Savior’s birth, ruled of Galilee when John the Baptist preached. The evil Herod put away his lawful wife, the daughter of Prince Aretas, and took Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, to live with him while Philip was still alive. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod, at which Herod threw him into prison and ordered him beheaded. The event is recalled in today’s Orthros and Liturgy Gospel lections. John’s disciples took the body of their teacher by night and buried it, but Herod tore out John’s tongue with a needle and then buried his head in an unclean place. God quickly punished the evildoers. Prince Aretas, to avenge his daughter’s honor, attacked Herod with his army and brought him to his knees. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in need and debasement until the earth opened and swallowed them up. Salome, Herodias’ daughter, came to a bad end in the river Sikaris. The Church commemorates the beheading

today because a church that had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated on this day.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Theodora of Thessalonica; and Theopistis and Joseph the Sanctified of Samaka. 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

Memorial wheat is being offered by Carolyn Sadd, the Sadd Khouri and Lewin families for the ten year memorial of the servant of God, Adeb G. Sadd (+31 August, 2011). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Robert & Amal Makhoul in loving memory of Diab Makhoul (+25 August, 1999), beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather. Prayers are also offered in memory of Khazma Makhoul, Georges & Saade Mebarkah, Deacon Fadel Mebarkah, Aziz Mebarkah, Badria Ablahad; and for the continued health of Rita Makhoul & Stephen, Christian and Nicholas Ablahad; Andrew & Jenna Makhoul and Charles Makhoul.

Holy Bread is being offered with the passing of our beloved and dear uncle Emile Skaff, always with us throughout our lives. He will be forever missed. And our sincerest condolences to our cousins Frank and Jocelyn; love, Jeanice, Gina and Edward Deeb and family.

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

by the Deeb family in loving memory of Rose Ghattas Deeb
(+31 August, 2002). Memory eternal.

for Katherine Leilani Baclig, celebrating her tenth birthday (August 25th)
by her grandfather, Father Timothy Baclig. May God protect her and
grant her many years!

for the repose of the newly-departed Khouriye Helen Oscar-Ashie
(+25 August, 2021) Memory eternal.

in loving memory of Emile Skaff and for the comfort and
peace of all his family, offered by Samia Habib.

for God's peace for Mae Tortolano during her time of the loss of
her brother, Emile Skaff; offered by her secret sister.

for the safe travels in Syria of Mary Minassian,
she and Troy's daughter, Sophia.

NOTICE: The private services for Emile Skaff (+24 August, 2021) will include an interment at St. Nicholas Memorial Gardens (Valhalla Cemetery in North Hollywood) on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. open to everyone. Wearing an appropriate face covering and safe distancing is requested. Spiritual Bouquets may be made to St. Michael Church Building Fund (16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, CA; 91406) or through the parish website at: www.stmichaelvanuys.org Please earmark your memorial gift: "Skaff Spiritual Bouquet." Blessed be the memory of our father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and fellow parishioner, Emile. Memory eternal.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Indiction [Beginning of the New Church Year] - September 1st

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost and the 11th Sunday of Matthew
The Prophet Zachariah, Father of the Forerunner

Saturday, September 4th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 5th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Theotokos - Thursday, September 8
Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Live-streaming Sunday Orthros and Liturgy

If you are unable to be with us at church on Sunday, are on vacation or out-of-town, 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. Mailing your check to the church will save our church a 3% service charge. Other options for your contributions include: a) automatic bill pay and b) recurring automatic withdrawal, both of which may be arranged with your bank. You may contact us for assistance with any of these options; especially when information of our bank routing and account numbers are needed. E-mail your questions to: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Church Attendance

We are currently requesting that everyone attending our church services to again wear face coverings due to the City policy regarding the rapid rise in the Delta COVID Variant. Questions will also be answered by Father Timothy by e-mail at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org The Sacraments are also available on weekdays by appointment.

Weekly Bible Study Resumes This Tuesday (August 31)

Our next Bible Study will be held on Tuesday evening, August 31st, at 7 p.m. We will be continuing our study of St. Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out in an e-mail. Sessions are recorded for those unable to attend who may also request the link to the study. Plan to join us.

Upcoming Events

5th Annual Orthodox Advanced Leadership Conference

September 21-19, 2021

Register at: <https://www.orthodoxservantleaders.com/events.html>

30th Annual St. Michael Annual Golf Classic (TBA)

Diocesan Fall Gathering - October 8-10, 2021

Host: St. John Church; Orinda, California



Charlotte Murr

Michelle Moujaes

MONICA JUGANU

Shereen Manning

David & Neveen Dawud

Cooper Rowe

SPECIAL DATES

Church School Registration

*Come meet your teachers
Sunday, September 12th*

Church School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 12th

First Day of Church School

Sunday, September 19th

Church School Christmas Program Rehearsal

to be announced

Youth Month = October

*Teens to participate
in the reading of the Epistles and ushering*

Orthodox Easter (Agape) Service

*Followed by an Easter egg hunt for children
Sunday, April 24th*

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Sep 05 - open

Sep 08 - open (Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos)

Sep 12 - open

Sep 19 - open

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

Bookstore Orders Available on Parish Website

You may place an order through our parish website or e-mail Bobbi Monsue (Manager) for special orders at: bobbi_monsue@att.net. Your credit card will also be accepted for payment. Please come in and browse through our expanding selection of books, icons and gift ideas. Special orders may also be made by request.

Lecture on the Holy Land Monotheistic Faiths

For the past three years, Father Timothy has been providing seasonal lectures to pre-college and college students on the subject: "The Three Monotheistic Faiths of the Holy Land: Judaism, Christianity and Islam." You are welcome to receive the recorded links to the lecture by request. Simply e-mail Father Timothy at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Our 2021 Pledge Form Provided with this Bulletin

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2021 form. Everyone's financial situation is subject to changes from year to year. In the same way, our parish depends upon the financial pledge commitments of its members in order to meet its monthly expenses. We thank everyone for their faithful financial support of our parish and all who have made additional contributions to our Building Fund. Please note the four options available for your offerings listed on the form: 1) hardcopy check mailed or brought to church, 2) automatic bill pay, 3) on-line credit card contribution, and 4) recurring automatic bank withdrawal.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Phone: 818-994-2313
Website: www.stmichaelvannuys.org

2021 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

1. All enrolled members must first fulfill a fair share contribution that is paid 100% by St. Michael Church to the Archdiocese annually (this does not include your family pledge obligation BELOW).

Total number of baptized Orthodox persons (age 18 & above) in your household _____ \$50 each _____

Total number of baptized Orthodox persons (age 17 & under) in your household _____ \$35 each _____

(Please print all names with information in the section below)

2. In gratitude of God's blessings, I / we pledge to contribute St. Michael Church expenses.

A total annual amount of: ____ (see Treasure self-assessment chart)

\$ _____ weekly \$ _____ monthly \$ _____ quarterly \$ _____ semi-annually \$ _____ annually

Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Phone number _____ E-mail Address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. How do you wish to pay? We accept personal checks or credit card payments. (See below)

- a. You may write a check to "St. Michael Church" and mail it to the Church Office.
(see address above)
- b. You may process an "automatic bill pay" with your bank that will mail a recurring monthly hard-copy earmarked check to St. Michael Church.
- c. You may pay by credit card using our website donation page (a 3% processing fee will apply) at: <https://www.stmichaelvannuys.org/donate/> and we will be immediately notified.
- d. You may arrange for a recurring monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account using our church bank routing number and bank account.

Note: Each donation to St. Michael Church should be earmarked, i.e., "Building Fund," "Pledge," etc.

Print names of baptized Orthodox persons in your household.

Name

Age

New Church Building Fund

As we approach the completion of our new church building project it has been determined that we are \$400,000.00 dollars short in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy from the City of Los Angeles. We still have many items to comply with, that include codes set by the City and State in order to be able to worship in our new church as a "public use building."

We are very thankful for the many who have generously supported our Project, however, several households of our parish who have not donated to our project.

We have now developed a parishioner loan program that will enable you to help us reach our goal of occupancy (\$50,000.00 dollar minimum), whereby you will be paid interest on the loan plus a five-year payback. This will be backed by a Promissory Note. There are other details that will be discussed should you express a willingness to lend the money to the church.

We are also exploring a Line of Credit with a lending institution. In the case of a Line of Credit you only pay interest on the money you draw, and not the established amount of credit. Ideally, we would like to avoid any type of loans and remain debt free. Should you have any questions please contact Ron Zraick by e-mail ronaldzraick@gmail.com or by phone at 310-897-1571.

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-tone 8

اللحن 8

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND THE NINTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE HOLY DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

MARTYRS FLOROS AND LAUROS OF ILLYRIA;

VENERABLE SOPHRONIOS OF ST. ANNE SKETE ON ATHOS

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثامن

انحدرت من العلوّ يا متحنن, وقبلت الدفنَ ذا الثلاثةِ الأيامِ, لكي تُعتقنا من الآلامِ, فيا حياتنا
وقيامتنا يا ربَّ المجدُّ لك.

طروبارية رقاد والدة الإله على اللحن الأول

في ميلادك حفظت البتولية وصنتها، وفي رقادك ما أهملت العالم، يا والدة الإله، لأنك انتقلت إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعتك أنقذي من الموت نفوسنا.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالحن الرابع

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

قنداق رقاد والدة الإله على اللحن الثاني

إن والدة الإله التي لا تكف عن الشفاعة، والرجاء الوطيد في النجدة، لم يضبطها قبر ولا موت. لكن بما أنها أم الحياة نقلها إلى الحياة الذي حل في مستودعها الدائم البتولية.

الرسالة

انذروا وأوفوا للرب إلهكم، الله معروف في أرض يهوذا.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى أهل كورنثس.

يا إخوة، نحن شركاء في العمل مع الله، وأنتم حقل الله وبناء الله. وبقدر ما أوتيت من نعمة الله، كبانى ماهر، وضعت الأساس وأخر بيني عليه. فلينتبه كل واحد كيف يبني. فما من أحد يستطيع أن يضع أساساً غير الأساس الذي وضعه الله، أي يسوع المسيح. فكل من بنى على هذا الأساس بناءً من ذهب أو فضة أو حجارة كريمة أو خشب أو قش أو تبن، فسيكون عمله بيئاً، ويوم الرب يعلنه، لأن النار في ذلك اليوم تكشفه وتمتحن قيمة عمل كل واحد. فمن بقي عمله الذي بناه نال أجره، ومن احترق عمله خسر أجره. أما هو فسيخلص، ولكن كمن ينجو من خلال النار. أما تعلمون أنكم هيكل الله، وأن روح الله يسكن فيكم؟ فمن أفسد هيكل الله أهلكه الله، لأن هيكل الله مقدس، وهذا الهيكل هو أنتم.

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ متى

في ذلك الزمان: أمر يسوع تلاميذه أن يركبوا القارب ويسبقوه إلى الشاطئ المقابل حتى يصرف الجموع. ولما صرفهم صعد إلى الجبل ليصلي في العزلة. وعندما جاء المساء كان هناك وحده. أما القارب فكان في وسط البحر وكانت الأمواج تلطمه، لان الرياح كانت مخالفة له. وعند آخر الليل، جاء يسوع إلى تلاميذه ماشيا على البحر. فلما رآه تلاميذه ماشيا على البحر ارتعبوا وقالوا: "هذا شبح!" وصرخوا من شدة الخوف. فقال لهم يسوع في الحال: "ثقوا أنا هو، لا تخافوا!" فقال له بطرس: "إن كنت أنت هو، يا سيد، فمرني أن أجيء إليك على الماء." فأجابه يسوع: "تعال." فنزل بطرس من القارب ومشى على الماء آتيا إلى يسوع. ولكنه خاف عندما رأى شدة الرياح فأخذ يغرق، فصرخ: "نجني، يا سيد!" فمد يسوع يده في الحال وأمسكه وقال له: "يا قليل الإيمان، لماذا شككت؟" ولما صعدا إلى القارب هدأت الرياح. فسجد له الذين كانوا في القارب وقالوا: بالحقيقة أنت ابن الله!" وعبروا إلى بر جنيسارت.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الأرثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذي يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضوا. في الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية