

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

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The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost and The Ninth Sunday of Matthew

After-Feast of the Holy Dormition of the Theokos
Martyr Agathonikos of Nicomedia and those with him

Sunday, August 22, 2021

Tone 8; Eothinon 9

Apolytikion of 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 of the Holy Dormition of the Theotokos (Tone 1)

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

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 Holy Dormition of the Theotokos (Tone 2)

Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions, and whose prayers are never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control. But since she is the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb did translate her to life.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)

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

**The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the
Corinthians (3:9-17)**

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw, each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

THE GOSPEL (for the Ninth Sunday of Matthew)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
(14:22-34)**

At that time, Jesus made the Disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the Disciples' boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the Disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is Thee, bid me come to Thee on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly, Thou art the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

The Synaxarion

On August 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, during the after-feast of the Dormition of our Lady the Theotokos, we commemorate the holy, glorious and right victorious Martyr Agathonikos of Nicomedia and those with him: Zoticus, Zeno, Theoprepius, Acindynus, Princeps and Severian.

Verses

Agathonikos' name, the pledge of goodness,
calleth his triumph by the sword very goodly.
These men enduring the most violent devices,
break the devices of the wicked deviser.
On the twenty-second a sword killed Agathonikos.

Agathonikos turned the Greeks away from idolatry with great fervor, and instructed them in the true Faith. The imperial governor, on orders from the Emperor Maximian, persecuted Christians with great harshness. He seized Zoticus in a place called Carpe, crucified his disciples and took him off to Nicomedia, where he also seized and bound Agathonikos, Princeps, Theoprepius, Acyndinus, Severian, Zeno and many others. In their captivity, Zoticus, Theoprepius and Acyndinus died from exhaustion and of their wounds. Severian was killed near Chalcedon and Agathonikos and the others were taken to Thrace, to a place called Silybria, where, after torture before the Emperor himself, they were beheaded with the sword and entered into eternal life and the joy of their Lord in the year 298.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, 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 is being offered by the Milkie Family for the six-month memorial of the servant of God, Elaine Srour (+21 February, 2021), beloved mother of Michael C. Srour, Denise Cruz and Steven Srour. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Ron & Kathy Zraick in memory of Ron's mother, Edna Zraick (+20 August, 1979), grandmother, Angelina Diab (+28 August, 1961), sister, Louise Martin (+6 September, 1975), and Kathy's mother, Camile Adeeb (+17 August, 2002). May their memories be eternal.

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

for Riad & Diana Nasser as they celebrate their 59th Anniversary (August 18). May God grant you continued love and happiness, and that you may enjoy more; much love, Ramez & Rima Hage

for the nation of Lebanon and its impending humanitarian crisis.

by the Milkie family for the nine-day memorials of the Archpriest Gregory Ofiesh of blessed memory and eternal repose, and the Archpriest Tom Parish, of blessed memory and eternal repose.

by the Milkie family for the comfort and peace of Khouriye Helen Ashie; for the good health of Fred & Leila Milkie and Raymond & Georgiana Rishwain

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Beheading of the Forerunner and Baptist John

[observed as a day of strict fasting]

Saturday, August 21st, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, August 22nd, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., 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.

No Bible Study Scheduled This Week (August 24)

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.

Thank you

Father Timothy and his family acknowledges and thanks everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy received, with the recent passing of his niece, Bonnie Bissen in Hilo, Hawaii. He will be visiting with his family this week (August 23-26), and working remotely while out-of-state; addressing any urgent matter by text or audio telephone (818) 219-3761.

Upcoming Events

5th Annual Orthodox Advanced Leadership Conference
September 21-19, 2021

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

Diocesan Fall Gathering - October 8-10, 2021

Host: St. John Church; Orinda, California

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Aug 29 - the Sadd family

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.

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

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NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND THE NINTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

**THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE HOLY DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
MARTYR AGATHONIKOS OF NICOMEDIA AND THOSE WITH HIM**

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثامن

انحدرت من العلو يا متحنن, وقبلت الدفن ذا الثلاثة الأيام, لكي نُعْتَقْنَا من الآلام, فيا حياتنا
وقيامتنا يا ربّ المجدُّ لك.

في ميلادِك حَفِظَتِ البَتُولِيَّةَ وَصُنَّتِهَا، وَفِي رُقَادِكِ مَا أَهْمَلَتِ العَالَمَ وَتَرَكْتِهِ يَا وَالدَّةَ
الإِلَهَ. لِأَنَّكَ انْتَقَلْتِ إِلَى الحَيَاةِ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ أُمُّ الحَيَاةِ. فَبِشَفَاعَاتِكِ، أَنْقِذِي مِنَ المَوْتِ
نُفُوسَنَا.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع
أَيُّهَا المَتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرَ المَسْتَحَقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَتَّكِمَ
بَطْلِبَاتِكُمْ تَكْتَنُفُونَا بِظِلِّ أَجْنَحَةِ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الهَيُولِيِّ، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الجَائِثِينَ
وَالصَّارِحِينَ بِغَيْرِ فِتُورٍ، أَنْقِدُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ، بِمَا أَتَّكِمَ رُؤَسَاءَ مَرَاتِبِ القَوَاتِ العُلُويَّةِ.
أُمُّ الإِلَهِ القَوِيَّةُ فِي الشَّفَاعَةِ، وَالعَوْنُ الَّذِي لَا يَخِيْبُ فِي الحِمَايَةِ، لَمْ تُضَبِّطْ فِي قَبْرِ وَلَا فِي
مَوْتٍ، بَلْ كَأَمَّ الحَيَاةِ نَقَلَهَا إِلَى الحَيَاةِ ابْنُهَا الَّذِي حَلَّ فِي حَشَاهَا الدَّائِمِ البَتُولِيَّةِ.

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، كبراني ماهر، وضعت الأساس وأخر يبني 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 بيتاً، 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

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متي

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 الارثوذكسية 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 عضواً في الكنيسة الارثوذكسية