

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

Our God-bearing Father Sabbas the Sanctified and the Tenth Sunday of Luke

Martyr Diogenes; Venerable Nektarios of Yagaris Kelli and Philotheos of Karyes on Athos; Gurius, missionary bishop of Kazan; Venerable Nektarios of Bitol in Bulgaria

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Tone 7; Eothinon 4

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 7)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion for St. Sabbas the Sanctified (Tone 8)

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundred-fold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father Sabbas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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 Preparation of Christ's Nativity (Tone 3)

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for St. Sabbas the Sanctified)

The saints shall boast in glory. Sing unto the Lord a new song.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (5:22 - 6:2)

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control: against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become vainglorious, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a person is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore such a one in a spirit of meekness; looking to yourself, lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

THE GOSPEL (for the Tenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

The Synaxarion

On December 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Sabbas the Sanctified.

Verses

Since he clave after God in soul all his lifetime,
Sabbas in His presence now standeth before Him.
On the fifth, Sabbas was led up within the divine vault.

Sabbas was born in 439 in Moutalaska, a small village of Cappadocia. He entered the arena of the monastic life at age the age of eight and was under that master trainer of monastics and teacher of the desert, Euthymius the Great. Sabbas became the spiritual father of many monks and an instructor for the monasteries in Palestine, and was appointed archimandrite of the desert-dwellers there by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. In his old age, he went to Constantinople, to the Emperors Anastasius and Saint Justinian the Great, in behalf of the Orthodox Faith and the dogmas of the Council of Chalcedon. Sabbas reposed in 533 at age 94. Among all his good works, his greatest was the first Order of Services for use in monasteries, now known as the Jerusalem Typikon.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Diogenes; Venerable Nektarios of Yagaris Kelli and Philotheos of Karyes on Athos; Gurios, missionary bishop of Kazan; and Venerable Nektarios of Bitol in Bulgaria. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread and wheat are also being offered by the Meena, Abraham, and Gascou families for the four-year memorial and in loving memory of Lillian Meena (+6 December, 2017), beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Blessed be the memory of our beloved Lillian, worthy of blessedness and eternal memory.

Today's coffee hour is being hosted by Troy & Mary Minassian, celebrating their fifth wedding anniversary. May God grant Troy, Mary, and their daughter Sophia, good health and many years!

Father Timothy will be presenting the St. George, Chi Rho, Alpha Omega Award Medal to Nicholas John Malouf this morning for having completed the requirements of the Eastern Orthodox Commission on Scouting. May God grant Nicholas His continued success and many years!

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

for the one-year memorial of Eugene Ferns (+6 December, 2020), the beloved father of Christine Ferns Panga. Memory eternal.

for a blessed St. Barbara Feast Day to Bobbi Monsue from her secret sister.

for Art Danks, Choir Director, our singers, chanters and readers as we honor the offering of their skill and talent to our services.

Included in our prayers throughout the month of December are those celebrating their birthday: James Michael Baclig (12/1), Nicholas John Malouf (12/1), Anne and Marina Coury (12/2), Thomas Anthony Zraick (12/03), Alexander Worotko (12/4), Noah Michael Ajalat (12/5), Michael Mas (12/5), Marcia O'Dea (12/7), George John Khouri III (12/8), Stephanie Slatko (12/8), Jill Zraick Phipps (12/9), Amira Boutari (12/11), Ibrahim Wassef (12/11), Colin Michael Phipps (12/12), Nicole Mansur (12/15), Katelyn Matarese (12/15), Odette George (12/16), Thomas Mulry (12/16), Yuriko Yanni (12/16), Daniel Barney (12/17), Jonas Farr (12/17), Rana Azzam (12/18), Daphne Thabet (12/19), George Saade (12/20), John Tambouras (12/20), Afath Khleif (12/22), Linda Khouri (12/22), Mark Nassief (12/22), Evelyn Hannah (12/23), Christine Nasr (12/23), James Thomas (12/23), Logan Gary David Obenhaus (12/24), Teddy Hage (12/26), Ned Toomey (12/26), Hannah Heyam Madain (12/27), Hanna Harb (12/28), Michelle Ann Abdennour (12/30), Gabriella Lewin (12/31); also who celebrate their wedding anniversary: Ron & Kathy Zraick (12/17), Rami & Yuriko Yanni (12/28). May God grant them many years!

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

Elia Habib, +9 Dec. 1959	Bahat Bicker, +8 Dec. 2008
Francis Boyer, Dec., 1960	Bradley Abraham, +8 Dec. 2010
Nicole Saadeh, +31 Dec.	Mary Wassef, +7 Dec., 2011
Antone Saadeh, +21 Dec.	Rodney Khalil, +10 Dec. 2011
Charles Malouf +20 Dec., 1973	Nicholas Soffa, +9 Dec. 2012
Albert Elias Gillet, +6 Dec., 1978	Yvonne Tibshraeny, +11 Dec. 2012
Mary Anne Mansur, +19 Dec., 1979	Angel Kheir, +12 Dec., 2012

Woldemichael Kidane +12 Dec. 1982	Issa Gazie Ababseh, +6 Dec. 2013
Saliba Kassis, +30 Dec., 1987	Alsace George, +22 Dec., 2013
Michael G. Hayek, +2 Dec., 1990	Gloria Nassif, +04 Dec. 2014
Katherine Zaki, +1 Dec., 1993	Edward Chaffin Sr., +19 Dec. 2014
George S. Nasser, +24 Dec., 1993	Fred Safady, +24 Dec. 2014
Faraj Azzam, +20 Dec., 1994	Blanche Barghash, +29 Dec. 2014
Marie Abdou, +10 Dec., 1995	Laila El-Darzi, +8 Dec., 2015
Anton Abdelahad, +25 Dec., 1995	Mike Glissen, +15 Dec., 2015
Grace Haggar, +30 Dec., 1995	Mona Latif, +17 Dec., 2015
Nicholas Satel, +28 Dec., 1997	Philip G. Deeb, Sr., +1 Dec. 2016
Alice Meena, +10 Dec., 1999	Tommy Schmidt, +15 Dec., 2016
Wydea Haddad, +26 Dec., 1999	Claudine Lakah +25 Dec., 2016
John Black, +1 Dec., 1999	Mary Vogel +30 Dec., 2016
Haradu Woldetattious, +2 Dec., 2002	William Christopher +31 Dec. 2016
Charles Homsy, +2 Dec. 2002	Lillian B. Meena, +6 Dec. 2017
V. Rev. John Reinhold, +9 Dec. 2003	James T. Peck, +10 Dec. 2017
Annette Mittry, +26 Dec. 2003	Claire Azzam, +12 Dec. 2017
Minnie Abdun-Nur, +23 Dec. 2004	Gladys Najjar, +12 Dec. 2017
Mike Sarchizian, +6 Dec. 2006	Eugene Ferns, +6 Dec. 2019
Ileen M. Shaheen, +21 Dec. 2006	Odette George, +16 Dec. 2020
Shehadeh Moujaes, +22 Dec., 2006	Emile Bitar, +19 Dec. 2019
Hani Sweis, +26 Dec., 2006	Adele Bahbah, +5 Dec. 2020
Margaret Nassief, +1 Dec., 2007	Eugene Ferns, +6 Dec. 2020
Tamam Mitchell, +16 Dec., 2007	Adele Turk, +7 Dec. 2020
	Vadni Beyrouti, +9 Dec. 2020

Memory Eternal!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December is “St. Ignatius Month” in the Antiochian Archdiocese

Members of the Order of St. Ignatius are assisting in the services this month. Reading the epistle this morning is: Don Meena

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

We are within the period of the Nativity Fast

[Note: The **Fast of the Holy Nativity** is divided into two periods: 1) November 15 through December 19, the traditional fasting discipline is observed (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil), except on Tuesdays and Thursdays when wine and oil are permitted, and on Saturdays and Sundays when fish, wine and oil are allowed. It should be noted that some allow for fish on all days except Wednesdays and Fridays from November 15 to December 18; 2) December 20 through 24, traditional fasting is observed on all days except on Saturday and Sunday when wine and oil are permitted.]

The Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ and The Feast of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker – December 12th

Saturday, December 11th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 12th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Join Our Weekly Bible Study Each Tuesday Evening at 7 p.m.

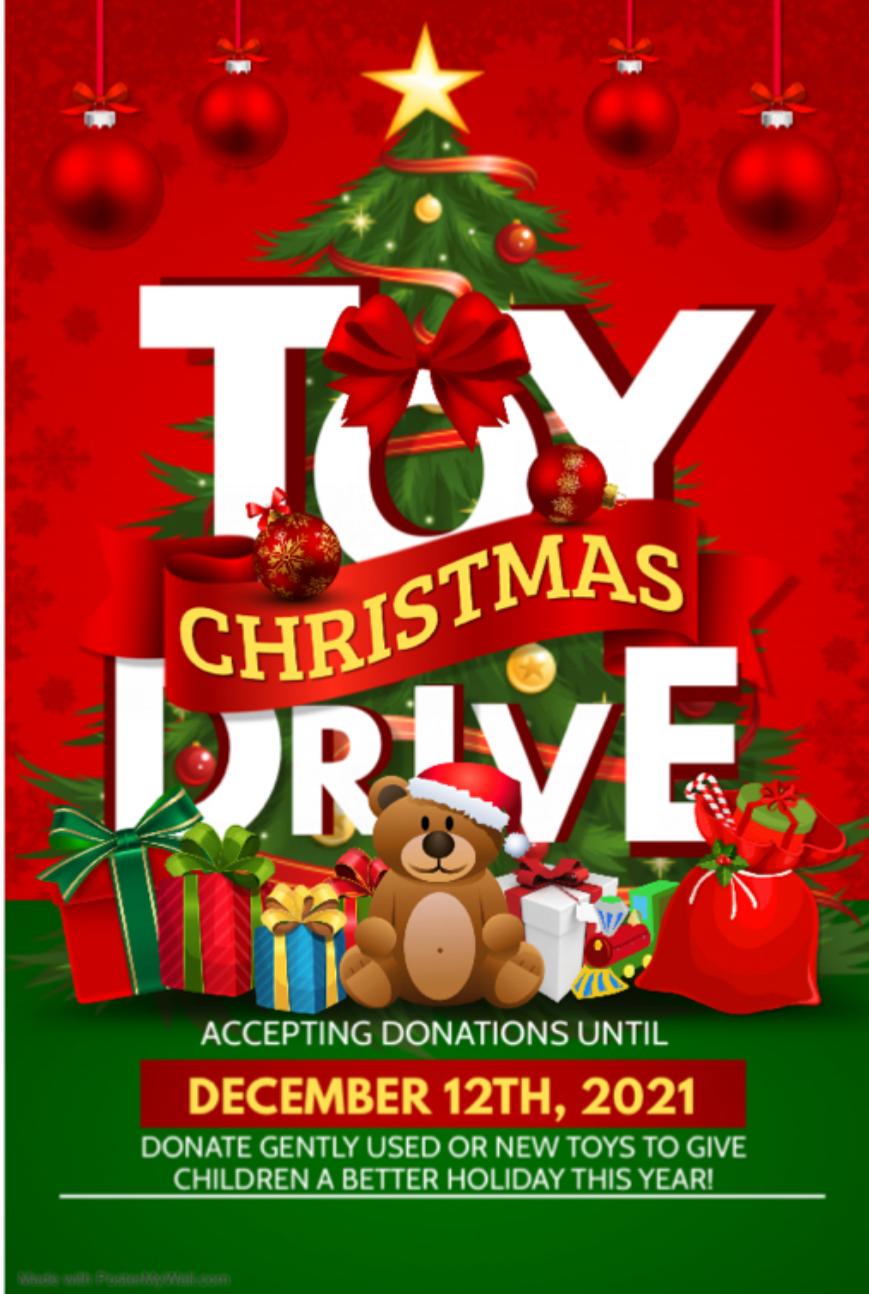
Our final Virtual Bible Study on II Corinthians (chapters 12 and 13) will be held on Tuesday evening, December 7th, at 7 p.m. A Zoom Meeting link will be provided by e-mail on Tuesday.

Teen SOYO Raffle

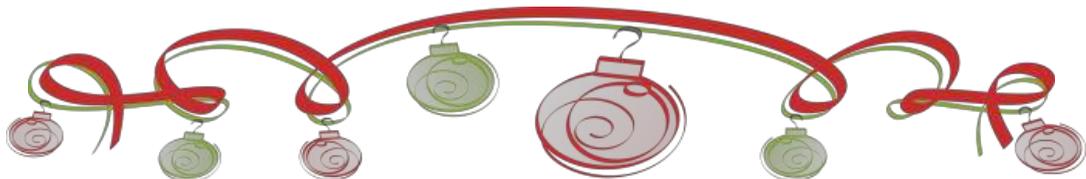
Additional tickets for our Annual Teen SOYO Raffle will be available each Sunday until the date of the drawing, Sunday, December 19, 2021. Thank you for your support.

Bookstore Orders Available on Parish Website

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 new books, icons and special Christmas gift ideas. Special orders may also be made by request. A new book soon to arrive is: *Syria Crucified: Stories of Modern Martyrdom in an Ancient Christian Land.*



The toys will be donated to the Watts Empowerment Center. They will be hosting a toy give away on December 18th. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Brittney at: 818-434-3558.



YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO OUR PRESENTATION OF

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



December 19th, 2021
Immediately following Liturgy

Come and see our short presentation of The Birth of Christ featuring our Church School students and some of our Parents as main Characters

A LENTEN LUNCH WILL FOLLOW WITH A VISITOR FROM YOU KNOW WHO (SANTA) DURING THE LUNCHEON

Anyone wanting to contribute, make sweets or help serve, contact
Debi Dodds 818.489.0635, debisdodds@gmail.com

ATTN: PARENTS = Students will be fitted in costume on Dec 5th & 12th during Church School. Parents are encourage to also participate

For more info, contact Lila Coudsy- 818.257.2030 lcoudsy@aol.com



ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN DLAW SOWING BEE PLANTING SEEDS OF WISDOM, HOPE & LOVE



GUEST SPEAKER

**Kh. Frederica
Mathewes-Green**

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER
9TH
7PM
(CA TIME)**

Author of this year's Antiochian Women's Book Club selection, "Mary As The Early Christians Knew Her" - Khouria will present on The Protevangelion of James (The Gospel of Mary) with icons representing the various events in the story.

**THIS PRESENTATION WILL VIEW ON OUR ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN DIOCESE OF
LOS ANGELES & THE WEST FACEBOOK PAGE .**

YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO VIEW

@ANTIOCHIANWOMENDIOCESEOFLOSANGELESANDTHEWEST

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: Please contact Father Timothy for Instructions.

Holy Bread Offering List

Dec 12 - Ron & Kathy Zraick;

Jimmy & Tessa George

Nick & Mimi Hallak

Dec 19 - Phyllis Grates

Dec 24, 25, 26 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Church School Family Lunch

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

Upcoming Events

St. Nicholas Winter Camp 2022 Registration Registration

opens: Monday, December 6, 2021 for February 18-21

Go to: CampStNicholas.ORG

Second Installation of Church Iconography

December 6-15; December 27 to January 8

St. Michael (Whittier) Advent Retreat - Saturday, December 11

beginning at 9 a.m. (RSVP to: stmichaelwhittier@gmail.com)

Three meditations are being presented by Father John Fenton

The Retreat is hosted by the Society of St. Benedict and is open to all.

Teen Christmas Caroling - Saturday, December 11; 2:30-6:45 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to: crowe31@gmail.com

St. Michael Church School Christmas Program and Family Lunch

Sunday, December 19, 2021; Please contact Debi Malouf to contribute,

make sweets or help serve: debisdodds@gmail.com

Teen SOYO Holiday Movie Night - Tuesday, December 28; 6 p.m.

St. Nicholas Cathedral; register at: <https://tinyurl.com/SOYO-ELF>

St. Michael 30th Golf Classic: Monday, May 23, 2022 at

Wood Ranch Golf Club (Simi Valley)

<www.woodranchgc.com>

SCHEDULE OF FESTAL SERVICES

[The Sacrament of Confession with Absolution is available by appointment or up until 15 minutes prior to the services.]

[All Services are Live-streamed]

The Sunday before The Holy Nativity

“The Sunday of the Genealogy”

Saturday, December 18th – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 19th – Orthros, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy,* 10 a.m.

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Friday, December 24th (Christmas Eve and *Paramon*)

The Great (“Royal”) Hours and Typika, 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon

The Ninth Royal Hour, 2:30 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great* – 3 p.m.

Saturday, December 25th (Christmas Day)

Orthros and the Christmas Canon, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy,* 10 a.m.

[There is **no** fasting from December 25th to January 4th]

The Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Sunday after The Holy Nativity

Saturday, December 25th – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 26th – Orthros, 8:45 a.m.; Divine Liturgy,* 10 a.m.

The Circumcision of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ and the Feast of St. Basil the Great (New Year’s Day)

Friday, December 31st (New Year’s Eve) – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.
with prayers for the New Year

Saturday, January 1st (New Year’s Day) – Orthros, 8:45 a.m.;
Divine Liturgy,* 10 a.m., with prayers for the New Year

THE GREAT FEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY)

Wednesday, January 5th - The Eve (*Paramon*)

The Great and Royal Hours, 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m.

The Ninth Royal Hour, 2:30 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great* – 3 p.m.

Thursday, January 6th — Festal Orthros, 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by
The Festal Divine Liturgy* and the Great Blessing of the Waters

** Services with Holy Communion*

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

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622
Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and all North America

Dear Parishioners & Friends of St. Michael,

St. Michael continues to support Loaves & Fishes, a local pantry serving the impoverished areas in Van Nuys and throughout the San Fernando Valley areas. Please phone 818-345-4363 should you be able to participate in our Thanksgiving and/or Christmas food collection. There are a few ways in participating:

1. If you would like me to shop for you, just write a check made out to "St. Michael Church," earmarked "Holiday Food Collection" (a tax incentive).
2. If you are doing your own shopping at Ralph's or Food-4-Less stores, don't forget to use your Ralphs Reward Card to help St. Michael Church to benefit.
3. Loaves and Fishes is also in need of the following: Personal care items including, deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary napkins and disposable razors; baby items such as diapers, 5T Pull-Ups or larger, and baby formula; bottled water, canned food items (preferably with pull-up tabs), i.e., tuna, chicken, baked beans, fruit, vegetables, chili, soups, pasta/ravioli, peanut butter, Ensure, Carnation Instant Breakfast, coffee, tea; also any store gift cards in \$5 and \$10; clothing and household items.

All food items must be delivered to our Community Center Narthex by Sunday December 19th. A cart marked Food Collection will be placed in the kitchen for your donations.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Christ,

Cindy Tamoush

Capital Funds Campaign Committee Recommends Building Fund Donation Tax Benefits

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 60% 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.

Third: Many corporations provide their employees with a “Matching Funds Program” to the charity of their choice. The amount may vary with each company. We suggest that you check with the Human Resources Department or the Comptroller of the company where you are employed to see if such a program is being offered.

St. Michael Church has benefited by all of the above from its members. For more information please speak with Ron Zraick, Chairman of the Capital Funds Campaign Committee <ronaldzraick@yahoo.com>.

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16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and all North America

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor
frtimothy@stmichaelvanuys.org

Church Telephone: 818/994-2313
www.stmichaelvanuys.org

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things,
at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

(II Corinthians 9:8)

Dear Members of St. Michael,

We are rapidly approaching the end of the calendar year and our Parish Council is preparing to provide us with our 2022 Annual Budget. A parish cannot solely rely upon the income of Sacramental offerings because we would not be able to meet our month-to-month expenses based upon anticipating baptisms, weddings, or funerals that takes place each year. Nor can we adequately pay for our ongoing property maintenance without the shared responsibility and the help of volunteers of our membership. Our parish is able to provide its clergy and facilities, the prayer services of the church and its Sacraments because of our faithful parishioners who help to financially support the salaries and the operational costs of our church property.

We are again asking everyone to prayerfully consider making a reasonable annual financial pledge to our parish for the New Year. We look forward, by God's grace, for continued growth in the future. We are also very grateful for the commitments of those who have provided us with contributions to complete the construction of our new church sanctuary. We encourage others who have not done so to prayerfully consider doing the same. One of our goals is to remain debt free. We are anticipating the completion of the church in the New Year. Additional information will be provided at our Annual Parish Meeting at the end of January.

May you and your family enjoy God's continued blessings as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of our Lord's birth.

In Christ,

Subdeacon Richard Tamoush
Stewardship Chair

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

2022 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”B 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

Pastor's Sermon

The Tenth Sunday of Luke

by V. Rev. Timothy Baclig

December 5, 2021

The setting of the miracle of the woman spoken of in today's Gospel lesson is at a synagogue where the Lord was teaching. The love of God and His great mercy is the main point of the Gospel lesson. It is the good news of this season as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of His Birth.

The Lord repeatedly called the people to repentance from the practice of a religion that fails to practice and demonstrate mercy. Every Lenten season our lessons point to what it means to be non-hypocritical. He rebukes those who claim to know the Law as being ignorant of the very thing in which they were expected be more knowledgeable and better instructed than anyone.

“You hypocrites,” He says, “Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

The ruler of the synagogue condemned the Lord for healing on the Sabbath. For him religion consisted of the observance of laws that could not be set aside even for the sake of mercy. The ruler's reaction to the healing of the woman who “had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years” illustrates how radically misunderstood and misused the Law had become among those whom God had so favored and of whom he expected so much.

You may recall from one of the readings of the twelve Gospels (Matthew 23:13-39) on Great and Holy Thursday the words of our Lord: “Woe to you teachers of the Law, Sadducees, Pharisees hypocrites”... You brood of vipers...” ...[loving] the praise of men more than the praise from God...”

In today's lesson the Lord heals the woman by His word—“Woman, you are set free from your infirmity”—and then by His touch: “He put His hands on her; and immediately she was straightened up and praised God” (vs.12-13). The miracle is remarkable for two reasons: First, the woman was not seeking to be healed and no one spoke on her behalf. Second, the Lord demonstrates that He is the incarnate God by the simple declaration that she was healed.

The rejection of Christ as the incarnate God by the Jews is matched by the heretics who claim that the eternal God could not possibly humble Himself and condescend to take on our nature. In the case of the heretics, they can only understand Christ to be a created being. To this point, **St. Gregory of Nazianzus says, “Do you conceive of Him as less... because he humbles Himself for the sake of the [woman who] is bent down to the ground, that He may exalt with Himself that which is bent double under the weight of sin?”**

Our Lord was never threatened by anyone or any circumstance. Nor was He controlled by any person or any situation. He did not need to prove who He was; nor did He need to demonstrate anything to justify Lordship. It was not His aim or purpose in His coming. If we miss this point, that we will never know the depth of meaning which is revealed in the upcoming Feast of His incarnation (called: “The Great Dispensation”) In the ninth ode of the Christmas Canon we hear: “I behold a mystery, great and most wonderful; heaven is the cave, the cherubic throne, the Virgin; the manger, the place where Christ lay: the uncontainable God who we magnify in song.” For some of us: this way of being humble is something we learn by being crushed, humiliated or by being broken. This was for our Lord something that He not only understood, but something He chose and demonstrated before His crucifixion by His every word and deed.

Every crisis in our life can do one of two things: It can lead us closer to God by way of the Cross, or it can alienate us from God and cause us to reject His call to holiness. The lesson therefore is clear: There are the more weighty matters of the Law that we cannot ignore. The practice of true religion is not neglecting what is obvious: namely, God’s love, mercy and compassion which fulfill the Law.

Many of us, as creatures of habit, dislike disruptions to our routine or what we are familiar with or accustomed to. When you and I are most comfortable with things being done a certain way, change can be very difficult. We lose our orientation, and being disoriented can be devastating to our pride. Meaning can be lost as we define what is meant in terms of what we do with no thought to why we are doing it. Today’s lesson forces us to recognize that we can be misguided and lose sight of what really matters—as far as God is concerned.

As we begin our countdown to Christmas, may we not lose sight of the reason for the season: God’s coming in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ was not an apparition. We are preparing to celebrate the full revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ who became Man. He took on human flesh and assumed our entire nature, except for sin; but

for the purpose bearing the sin of the world. He came to renew and restore all that was lost with Adam. And as the New Adam He fulfills the Law and is our righteousness.

EOTHINON 2

الايوثينا 2

STONE 7

اللحن 7

**OUR GOD-BEARING FATHER SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED
AND THE TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

MARTYR DIOGENES; VENERABLE NEKTARIOS OF YAGARIS KELLI AND PHILOTHEOS OF KARYES
ON ATHOS; GURIOS, MISSIONARY BISHOP OF KAZAN;
VENERABLE NEKTARIOS OF BITOL IN BULGARIA

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن السابع

حطمت بصليبك الموت وفتحت للصل الفردوس، وحوّلت نوح حاملات الطيب، وأمرت
رسلك أن يكرزوا بأنك قد قمت أيها المسيح الإله مانحاً العالم الرحمة العظمى.

إنّ البرية غير المثمرة بمجاري دموعك أخصبت، * وبالتنهّدات التي من الأعماق * إلى
مئة ضعف أتعبك أنمّرت. * فصرت كوكباً للمسكونة يتلألأ بالعجائب، * يا أبانا البارّ
سابا. * فتشفع إلى المسيح الإله * أن يخلص نفوسنا.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالحن الرابع

أيها المتقدّمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسّل إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتّى أنكم
بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظلّ أجنحة مجدكم غير الهولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجائين
والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوّات العلوية.

قنداق تقدمة الميلاد على اللحن الثالث

اليوم العذراء تأتي إلى المغارة لتلد الكلمة الذي قبل الدهور، ولادة لا تُفسّر، ولا
يُنطق بها، فافرحي أيها المسكونة إذا سمعت، ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة، الظاهر
بمشيئته طفلاً جديداً، وهو الإله قبل الدهور.

الرسالة

يفتخر الأبرار بالمجد. رنموا للرب ترنيمة جديدة.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل غلاطية.

يا إخوة، إن ثمر الروح هو المحبة، والفرح، والسلام، وطول الأناة، واللفظ، والصلاح، والإيمان، والوداعة، والعفاف. وهذه ليس ناموس ضدها. والذين للمسيح صلبوا أجسادهم مع الآلام والشهوات. فإن كنا نعيش بالروح فلنسلك بالروح أيضاً. ولا نكن ذوي عجب ولا نغضب ولا نحسد بعضنا بعضاً. يا إخوة إذا أخذ أحد في زلة فأصلحوا أنتم الروحيين مثل هذا بروح الوداعة. وتبصر أنت لنفسك لئلا تجرب أنت أيضاً. إحملوا بعضكم أثقال بعض وهكذا أتموا ناموس المسيح.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا

في ذلك الزمان كان يسوع يعلم في أحد المجامع في السبت، وهناك امرأة فيها روح مرض من ثماني عشرة سنة، وكانت منحنية الظهر لا تستطيع أن تنتصب. فلما رآها يسوع دعاها وقال لها: "أنت معافاة من مرضك. ووضعت يديه عليها، فانصبت في الحال ومجدت الله. فقال رئيس المجمع للحاضرين وهو مغتاظ، لأن يسوع أبرأ في السبت: "عندكم ستة أيام ينبغي العمل فيها، ففيها تأتون وتستشفون، لا في يوم السبت!" فأجابه الرب: "يا مرائي! أما يحل كل واحد منكم رباط ثوره أو حماره في السبت من المذود ويأخذه ليسقيه؟ وهذه ابنة إبراهيم رباطها الشيطان من ثماني عشرة سنة، أما كان ينبغي أن تحل من رباطها يوم السبت؟" ولما قال هذا، خزي جميع معارضيهِ، وفرح الجمع بكل الأعمال المجيدة التي كان يعملها

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا تقتصر 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 عضواً في الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية.