

**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](http://stmichaelvannuys.org)

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York  
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## **The After-feast (Apodosis) of Holy Theophany**

Commemorating the Martyr Polyeuktos of Armenia; Venerable Eustratios the Wonderworker; New-martyr Parthenas; Philip, Metropolitan of Moscow

**Sunday, January 9, 2022**

**Tone 4; Eothinon 7**

### **Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 4)**

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

### **Apolytikion of the Feast of Holy Theophany (Tone 1)**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath revealed Thyself and illumined the world, glory to Thee.

### **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 for the Feasts (Tone 4)**

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

### Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday after Holy Theophany)

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

**The Reading from St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (4:7-13)**

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL (for the Sunday after Holy Theophany)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to Matthew  
(4:12-17)**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

**The Synaxarion – January 9<sup>th</sup>**

On January 9 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the third day of the After-feast of the Theophany of Christ, we commemorate the holy Martyr Polyeuktos of Melitene in Armenia.

***Verses***

Polyeuktos, whose passion was beheading,

Through much prayer, O Word, had Thy grace to suffer.

On the ninth, O Polyeuktos, the glaive's stroke gave thee great glory.

There were in the town two friends who were officers: Nearchus and Polyeuktos, the former baptized and the latter unbaptized. When a decree

went out from the Emperor Valerian that all Christians were to be killed, Nearchus prepared himself for death. On the following day, Polyeuktos related to Nearchus a dream: the Lord Himself had appeared to him in light, stripped his old clothing from him, clothed him in new and shining raiment and set him upon the saddle of a winged horse. Polyeuktos was baptized, and then went off to the town, tore up the royal decree on the persecution of Christians and smashed many statues of idols. The blood of Polyeuktos was spilled in the year 259. Nearchus later became a martyr for Christ in the fire.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Eustratios the wonderworker; New-martyr Parthenas; and Philip, metropolitan of Moscow. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

GLOSSARY: Troparion (tro-pah-ree-on); *plural*, Troparia: A brief poem in accentual metre, expressing the theme of a feast. Kontakion (kon-tah-kee-on); *plural*, Kontakia: A special kind of Troparion that expresses the teaching of a Feast. It summarizes and applies the meaning of a feast of day. Orthros (Or-thros): The word literally means *early morning*. It is the name of the service, which by some has been called *Matins*, and still by others, *Lauds*, though it does not correspond exactly to either of the Western Services. Eothinon (ee-oh-thee-non): meaning – *pertaining to the dawn*. They are the eleven assigned readings of the Gospel during the Orthros Service, pertaining to the eleven appearances of our Lord to His Disciples after the Resurrection. Synaxis (see-nax-sees) “the gathering or coming together” as it pertains to a celebration of a commemoration or feast. Following a major Feast a “Synaxis” commemorates the “co-stars” of the Feast, i.e., following the Feast of the Presentation of Christ (Ss. Simeon and Anna), following the Feast of the Birth of Christ (the Holy Virgin Mary), following the Feast of Holy Theophany (St. John the Baptist), etc. Synaxarion (see-nax-sah-ree-on) the summary of a Feast, describing a historical significance and meaning of a commemoration.

### 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 and memorial wheat is being offered by John Apostolou and family for the forty-day memorial of his beloved wife, Emily (+7 December, 2021). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered by the Deeb family in loving memory of Dr. Edward Deeb (+11 January, 1997). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered by Barbara Bohamed and family for the one-year memorial of her sister, Khouriye Diana Masood (+17 November, 2020) of Massachusetts; also remembering: Habib & Frieda Bistany, Father Constantine Masood; Eli Bohamed, Richard McHugh; Zakieh Homsy; Miriam Bistany and Joan Bohamed. Prayers are also offered for the continued health of Barbara Bohamed and family; Daniel Masood and family, Gregory & Madison Masood, Christopher & Ruth Masood, Peter & Mila Masood, Andrea & Roger Tougas, Alexandria & Jonathan Prigeo, Sharon & Jeff Gorsch, Carol McHugh, Edward & Brenda Bistany, Carol & Robert Miranda. Memory eternal.

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

for the one-year memorial of Lucy Aboud (+5 January, 2021) of Parma, Ohio; lifelong friend, Ramona Darmour. Memory eternal.

for the repose of Father Nicholas Neyman (+13 December, 2021),  
by Fred & Barbara Nicola and family. Memory eternal.

for Nicholas & Monica; Nicholas, Stefan, and the Nun Semfora;  
also in memory of: Nicolae, Maria, Ioan, the Nun Filofteia, Vasile, Eva,  
Ana, Ioan-Spiridon, Maria, Ioan, Georgette, Nicolae, Maria, Vasile, Maria  
and Aurel. Memory eternal.

by Denise Srouer Cruz for the well being of Dolores Cardelucci.

for the continued health of Alice Prewett

by Charmaine Darmour for the continued recovery  
and good health of Craig George

for the continued recovery and good health of Subdeacon Magued Wassef

### ***SCHEDULE OF SERVICES***

[Note: Wednesdays and Fridays are observed as days of fasting]

**The Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost and**

**The Twelfth Sunday of Luke**

Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church School Classes Resume - Sunday, January 9

### Virtual and In-person Annual Parish Meeting, Report Booklet

The Virtual Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022, 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 past due.**

### 2022 Council Officers Elected

We congratulate our 2022 Executive Officers who were elected on Wednesday, December 27, 2022: **Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla**, Chair; **Kris Thabit**, Vice-Chair; **John Khouri**, Secretary; **Britton McLinn**, Treasurer.

### State of California Department of Public Health Advisory

To ensure that we collectively protect the health and well-being of all Californians, keep schools open for in-person instruction, and all allow California's economy to thrive, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) **is requiring masks to be worn in all indoor public settings, irrespective of vaccine status, through January 15, 2022.**

### Father Timothy Away Next Weekend

Father Timothy plans to be visiting his family (January 13-18, 2022) and Father Minas Sarchizian will be substituting for him next weekend: January 15-16, 2022. Father will remain in contact in the event of an emergency and may be reached directly by text or voice and e-mail (818) 219-3761; [frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org). Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Pastoral Assistant, may be reached for other matters in Father Timothy's absence at: (818) 800-2418 or [rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org)

**Parish Council Virtual Meeting** – Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.

## Holy Water Available for Distribution and House Blessings Scheduled

Holy Water will be available to all at the end of the service on January 9. There is no prohibition to anyone receiving or drinking Holy Water. 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. House blessings may be arranged with Father Timothy or Father Minas by appointment. While house blessings may take place at any time of the year, it is best to schedule one prior to Meat Fare Sunday: February 27, 2022.

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<b>Calendar for:</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
First Day of Great Lent	March 14	March 13	April 08
Holy Pascha	April 24	April 16	May 05
Western Easter	April 17	April 09	May 31
Feast of Theophany	Thursday		January 6, 2022
Meat Fare Sunday	Sunday		February 27, 2022
Feast of the Annunciation	Friday		March 25, 2022
Feast of the Ascension	Thursday		June 2, 2022
Pentecost	Sunday		June 12, 2022
Feast of the Nativity	Sunday		December 25, 2022

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## Zoom Meeting Virtual Bible Study Resumes Next Tuesday

**Our Bible Study with Father Timothy** — will resume on Tuesday, January 11th at 7 p.m. A Zoom link will be provided in the 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. In the upcoming weeks we will be reading St. Paul’s First and Second letter to Timothy. A link for the recorded sessions are provided to anyone by request. Just e-mail Father Timothy at: [frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)

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

**Holy Bread Offering List**

Jan 16 - Pat Malouf

Jan 23 - open

Jan 30 - open

**Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar**

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

**Notice to All Who Have Used Church Offering Envelopes:**

We have discontinued the use of the old envelope system for tithes and offerings. This is an added expense to our budget and the majority of our members (even those for whom they have been provided) have not used them. Instead, standardized weekly envelopes will be available in the narthex for all who choose to use them, especially for those who make cash offerings. Envelopes will also be provided to those who have mailed in their offering using the envelopes. The new envelopes will provide room for filling in your name and address. It will also allow you to specify the earmark or designation of the offering (i.e., "raffle tickets," "lunch," "Spiritual Bouquet," etc.). **Any donation or pledge payment to the Building Fund (including designated "Spiritual Bouquets" as Memorial Gifts) must be made by a separate check and cannot be combined with offerings to the Church General / Operating Fund.** Thank you for your faithful support of our parish with your regular contributions.

**Upcoming Events**

**Continuation of The Second Installation of Church Iconography**

December 29 to January 15

**Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership** (Virtual and In-person)

Sunday, January 30, following the Divine Liturgy

**Diocesan Clergy Seminar** (Alhambra) — February 7-8, 2022

**St. Michael 30th Golf Classic:** Monday, May 23, 2022 at  
Wood Ranch Golf Club (Simi Valley) <[www.woodranchgc.com](http://www.woodranchgc.com)>

**Diocesan Parish Life Conference** hosted by The Church of the Redeemer (Santa Clarita Marriott) — July 29 - July 3, 2022

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

*"Prayer does not equip us for greater work - Prayer IS the greater work."*  
Oswald Chambers

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Michael Church,

We live in a "get-fixed-quick" kind of world and daily personal prayer can be challenging. Do you have a personal daily prayer rule? Are you successful in maintaining a practice daily prayer?

I am very pleased to announce that *Faithtree Resources* has initiated providing us with a tool to help us in our daily prayer discipline. Join members of our parish, as well as a fellowship of Christians world-wide, who are hungry to grow in their personal prayer discipline and relationship with God.

You can sign up for more information about **The Encounter**, an initiative that helps us pray regularly and grow in our personal prayer disciplines of our Orthodox Church at [faithtree.org](http://faithtree.org).

I have been personally involved in the development of this tool developed by *Faithtree Resources* and encourage your being connected.

May the joy of the Feast with God's heavenly peace carry us through the New Year with St. Michael, protecting us from all harm.

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig  
Pastor

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**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" 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

## **Personal Tours of Our New Church Sanctuary**

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

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### **Pastoral Sermon**

**By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor**  
**The Sunday after Holy Theophany**

When do New Year resolutions fail? Why do they fail? What does the Feast of Holy Theophany teach us?

Being decisive is important to getting anything done. But it is only the start of initiating an action, starting over, or trying again. So why do we seem to always fail? It is because deciding to do something is not enough. For many, a new action may last for a period of time before it gets old, or we get tired and slip back to what we've been familiar with, or have been doing for a long time. And we give up!



**The Feast Holy Theophany brings us renewal.** In the Revelation of John (21:5) we hear the Lord say, "I am making everything new!" He did not say, "I am making new things." He did not make a mistake or violate His own principles. He fully entered our world and filled it with His divine presence to renew it! And the Feast we are now celebrating is His call for us to be renewed.

**The Feast of Holy Theophany also provides us with illumination.** However, it begins with our repentance—the full acceptance of responsibly saying "I've been wrong." It is then and only then that something new can really begin. To be resolute without illumination and repentance is self-serving. For many, that may be the goal. For the Christian, however, it is not only "I" who matters.

The Feast of Holy Theophany is also called the Feast of Light. Light illumines. It also reveals. If we are afraid of light and are more comfortable in darkness, we kid ourselves into thinking that change can come. We may also, in fact, not be ready for change.

Believing in all that Christ has come to do in order to save us—even from ourselves, can be the greatest challenge for you and I. We must desire with all of our heart, mind and soul to seek purification from sins with sincere repentance; even forgiving ourselves if necessary; or at least begin to seek knowing what we must rid ourselves from in order to be illumined by the Light of Christ.

In St. John's Gospel we hear: "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." (John 3:19-21)

No one of us would admit that we intend to do evil things or delight in what is evil. It may also be difficult for us to think of wanting to "let [our] light shine before men that they may see [our] good deeds and praise [our] Father in

heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Would that not be prideful? What did Jesus mean in saying that?

Jesus also said (in the same section of St. Matthew's Gospel beginning with verse 14): "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

Wait a minute: Isn't Jesus "the Light of the world?" Yes, He is! Well then, who am I to think of myself as "the light of the world?"



In his epistle St. John says: "God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all." He goes on to say, "If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not put the truth into practice. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin." (I John 1:5-7) Notice that St. John's words teach us that there can be no separation in our relationship to each other, if we walk in Christ's light and have united ourselves with Him. It's like a candle that is lit by a one that is already aflame. We share in being the light of the world by bearing the Light of Christ.

In Chapter Two, St. John becomes more explicit. He says, "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him."

Finally, renewal will be prevented if we continue to hold on to what we must completely let go of. God's forgiveness is something we can count on. Can He count on us to do His will and walk in His light?

May the Feast of Light, Holy Theophany, the full revelation of the Holy Trinity, illumine us in heart, mind and soul, that we may, with the fear of God, in faith and love, shine brightly with God's radiance!

Christ is in our midst!  
He is and ever shall be!

**EOTHINON 7**

الحن 4

**TONE 4**

7 الايوثينا

### **THE SUNDAY AFTER (APODOSIS)**

#### **THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST**

MARTYR POLYEUKTOS OF ARMENIA; VENERABLE EUSTRATIOS THE WONDERWORKER;  
NEW-MARTYR PARTHENAS; PHILIP, METROPOLITAN OF MOSCOW

#### **طروبارية القيامة على الحن الرابع**

إن تلميذاتِ الربِّ تعلمن من الملاكِ الكرّزِ بالقيامةِ البهجة، وطرحن القضاءَ الجدي، وخاطبن الرسلِ  
مفتخراتٍ وقائناتٍ: سُبِي الموتُ وقام المسيحُ الإلهُ، مانحاً العالمَ الرحمةَ العظمى.

#### **طروبارية الظهور على الحن الأول**

باعتماذك يا ربُّ في نهرِ الأردنِ، ظهرتِ السجدةُ للثالوثِ، لأنَّ صوتَ الآبِ تقدَّمَ لك بالشهادة، مسمياً  
إياك ابناً محبوباً، والروحَ بهيئةً حمامةٍ يؤيدُ حقيقةَ الكلمةِ، فيا من ظهرتِ وأنرتِ العالمِ، أيها المسيحُ  
الإلهُ المجدُّ لك.

#### **طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالحن الرابع**

أَيُّهَا الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرَ الْمُسْتَحَقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَتَّكِمَ بِطَلِبَاتِكُمْ تَكْتَنُفُونَنَا بِظُلْمٍ أَجْنَحَةٍ مُجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الْهَيُولِيِّ، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِثِينَ وَالصَّارِخِينَ بِغَيْرِ فَتُورٍ، أَنْقَذُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَانِدِ، بِمَا أَنْتُمْ رُؤَسَاءُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

### قنداق على اللحن الرابع

اليومَ ظَهَرْتَ لِلْمَسْكُونَةِ، يَا رَبِّ، وَنُورُكَ أَشْرَقَ عَلَيْنَا، نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ نَمَدِّحُكَ بِمَعْرِفَةِ قَانُلِينَ: لَقَدْ أَتَيْتَ وَظَهَرْتَ، أَيُّهَا النُّورُ الَّذِي لَا يُدْنَى مِنْهُ.

## الرسالة

لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتُكَ عَلَيْنَا.  
ابْتَهِجُوا أَيُّهَا الصَّدِيقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.

### فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل أفسس.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، لِكُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مِنَّا أُعْطِيَتِ النِّعْمَةُ عَلَى مِقْدَارِ مَوْهَبَةِ الْمَسِيحِ. فَلِذَلِكَ يَقُولُ "لَمَّا صَعِدَ إِلَى الْعُلَى سَبَى سَبْيًا وَأَعْطَى النَّاسَ عَطَايَا. " فَكُونُهُ صَعِدَ، هَلْ هُوَ إِلَّا أَنَّهُ نَزَلَ أَوْلًا إِلَى أَسَافِلِ الْأَرْضِ؟ فَذَلِكَ الَّذِي نَزَلَ، هُوَ الَّذِي صَعِدَ أَيْضًا فَوْقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ كُلِّهَا لِيَمْلَأَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ. وَهُوَ قَدْ أَعْطَى أَنْ يَكُونَ الْبَعْضُ رُسُلًا، وَالْبَعْضُ أَنْبِيَاءَ، وَالْبَعْضُ مُبَشِّرِينَ، وَالْبَعْضُ رُعَاةً وَمُعَلِّمِينَ. لِأَجْلِ تَكْمِيلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ، وَلِعَمَلِ الْخِدْمَةِ، وَبِنِيَانِ جَسَدِ الْمَسِيحِ. إِلَى أَنْ نَنْتَهِيَ جَمِيعُنَا إِلَى وَحْدَةِ الْإِيمَانِ وَمَعْرِفَةِ ابْنِ اللَّهِ، إِلَى إِنْسَانٍ كَامِلٍ، إِلَى مِقْدَارِ قَامَةِ مِلَّةِ الْمَسِيحِ.

## الإنجيل

### فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الانجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، لَمَّا سَمِعَ يَسُوعُ بِاعْتِقَالِ يُوْحَنَّا، رَجَعَ إِلَى الْجَلِيلِ. ثُمَّ تَرَكَ النَّاصِرَةَ وَسَكَنَ فِي كَفَرْنَاحُومَ عَلَى شَاطِئِ بَحْرِ الْجَلِيلِ فِي بِلَادِ زَبَلُونِ وَنَفْتَالِيمِ: لِيَتِمَّ مَا قِيلَ عَلَى لِسَانِ النَّبِيِّ إِشْعِيَا: "يَا أَرْضَ زَبَلُونِ وَأَرْضَ نَفْتَالِيمِ، عَلَى طَرِيقِ الْبَحْرِ، عَبْرَ الْأُرْدُنِ، جَلِيلِ الْأُمَمِ! الشَّعْبُ الْجَالِسُ فِي الظُّلَامِ أَبْصَرَ نُورًا عَظِيمًا، وَالْجَالِسُونَ فِي بَقْعَةِ الْمَوْتِ وَظِلَالِهِ

أشرق عليهم النور" ومن ذلك الوقت بدأ يسوع يبشر فيقول: "توبوا, فقد اقترب ملكوت السماوات".

### 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 فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية.