

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 Beatitude, Patriarch JOHN X, of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
and all the East www.antiochpatrarchate.com
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The Holy Great-martyr Barbara of Syria and the Tenth Sunday of Luke

The Venerable John of Damascus

Martyr Juliana; New-hieromartyr Seraphim, Bishop of Phanarion in Greece

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Tone 8; Eothinon 4

Apolytikion for 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 for St. Barbara of Syria (Tone 8)

Let us honor Saint Barbara, for she hath broken the snares of the enemy; and like a sparrow, she, the all-modest maiden, was delivered out of them by the help and weapon of the Cross.

Apolytikion for St. John of Damascus (Tone 3)

O ye faithful come, let us on this day laud with praise the sweet-sounding nightingale that adorned and captivated the Church of Christ with his sweet songs and tuneful, heav'nly hymns, he is the all-wise and eloquent John Damascene, the utmost chief of hymnographers, and a man of God who was filled with every earthly and divine wisdom.

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. Barbara)

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (3:23 - 4:5)

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

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 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the contest of the holy Great-martyr Barbara of Heliopolis in Syria, and her fellow Martyr Juliana.

Verses

Sacrificing thee with a sword, O Martyr Barbara,
thy father became the Abraham of the devil.

Receive, O Word, like unto a dove, Juliana,
Who cooeth, lest she be not beheaded quickly.

On the fourth Barbara's begetter became her beheader.

The pagan Dioscorus locked up his only daughter Barbara in a high tower. Once, while her father was away, she came down from the tower and met some Christian women who revealed the true Faith of Christ to her. Learning of his daughter's faith, Dioscorus beat her severely. However, the Lord Himself appeared to her with His angels and healed her. A certain woman, Juliana, upon seeing this, desired martyrdom for herself. They were ultimately led to the place of execution, where Dioscorus himself slaughtered his daughter, and Juliana was killed by the soldiers in the year 306. That same day, lightning struck the house of Dioscorus, killing him.

On this day, we also commemorate our Righteous Father John of Damascus, Monk and Presbyter of Mar Sabbas Monastery.

Verses

Having filled up the earth with songs full of sweetness,
John ascendeth to frame songs even in Heaven.

The Damascene Bard laid down his pen on the fourth.

Because of his ardent defense of the veneration of icons during the reign of the iconoclastic Emperor Leo, John was maligned by the emperor to the Caliph, who cut off his right hand. John prayed before the icon of the

Most-holy Theotokos, and his hand was rejoined and miraculously healed. John withdrew to St. Sabbas Monastery, where he was a model to the monks in humility, obedience and asceticism. John composed the Funeral Hymns and compiled the Octoechos, the Irmologion, the Menologion, a Christmas canon, the Paschal Canon and many theological works. John died peacefully in about the year 776 at the age of 104.

On this day, we also commemorate the New-hieromartyr Seraphim, Bishop of Phanarion in Greece. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered and the coffee hour hosted by Marcelle Chaffin in memory of her beloved husband, the newly-departed Edward Chaffin (+24 October, 2022). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Mimi Hallak in memory of her brother, Bassem Azzam (+30 November 2018) and her mother, Claire Azzam (+12 December 2017), with prayers for the Hallak and Azzam families. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered in memory of Gloria (+4 December, 2017) and Farid Nassif (+23 March, 2022), by their children: Nezar, Marianne, Toni, Lisa and their families. Memory eternal.

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

for the continued health of Tammy Salamone, by her brother,
Subdeacon Richard Tamoush and family.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Mary Nasser Dibs
(+28 November, 2022). Memory eternal.

for Bobbi (Barbara) Monsue, celebrating her Feast Day today.
May God grant her many years!

The Funeral Service for John Tambouras (+24 November, 2022) will be live-streamed on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 from St. George Greek

Orthodox Church in New Port Richey, Florida at 9 a.m. Pacific Time. Log onto the church website at: stgeorgenpr.org and connect with Facebook or YouTube. Memory eternal.

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 Abdenmour (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	Nicholas Soffa, +9 Dec. 2012
Francis Boyer, Dec., 1960	Yvonne Tibshraeny, +11 Dec. 2012
Nicole Saadeh, +31 Dec.	Angel Kheir, +12 Dec., 2012
Antone Saadeh, +21 Dec.	Issa Gazie Ababseh, +6 Dec. 2013
Charles Malouf +20 Dec., 1973	Alsace George, +22 Dec., 2013
Albert Elias Gillet, +6 Dec., 1978	Gloria Nassif, +04 Dec. 2014
Mary Anne Mansur, +19 Dec., 1979	Edward Chaffin Sr., +19 Dec. 2014
Woldemichael Kidane +12 Dec. 1982	Fred Safady, +24 Dec. 2014
Saliba Kassis, +30 Dec., 1987	Blanche Barghash, +29 Dec. 2014
Michael G. Hayek, +2 Dec., 1990	Laila El-Darzi, +8 Dec., 2015
Katherine Zaki, +1 Dec., 1993	Mike Glissen, +15 Dec., 2015
George S. Nasser, +24 Dec., 1993	Mona Latif, +17 Dec., 2015
Faraj Azzam, +20 Dec., 1994	Philip G. Deeb, Sr., +1 Dec. 2016

Marie Abdou, +10 Dec., 1995	Tommy Schmidt, +15 Dec., 2016
Anton Abdelahad, +25 Dec., 1995	Claudine Lakah +25 Dec., 2016
Grace Hagggar, +30 Dec., 1995	Mary Vogel +30 Dec., 2016
Nicholas Satel, +28 Dec., 1997	William Christopher +31 Dec. 2016
Alice Meena, +10 Dec., 1999	Lillian B. Meena, +6 Dec. 2017
Wydea Haddad, +26 Dec., 1999	James T. Peck, +10 Dec. 2017
John Black, +1 Dec., 1999	Claire Azzam, +12 Dec. 2017
Haradu Woldetatiuous, +2 Dec., 2002	Gladys Najjar, +12 Dec. 2017
Charles Homsy, +2 Dec. 2002	Eugene Ferns, +6 Dec. 2019
V. Rev. John Reinhold, +9 Dec. 2003	Odette George, +16 Dec. 2020
Annette Mittry, +26 Dec. 2003	Emile Bitar, +19 Dec. 2019
Minnie Abdun-Nur, +23 Dec. 2004	Adele Bahbah, +5 Dec. 2020
Mike Sarchizian, +6 Dec. 2006	Eugene Ferns, +6 Dec. 2020
Ileen M. Shaheen, +21 Dec. 2006	Adele Turk, +7 Dec. 2020
Shehadeh Moujaes, +22 Dec., 2006	Vadni Beyrouiti, +9 Dec. 2020
Hani Sweis, +26 Dec., 2006	Elyas Alber, +13 Dec. 2020
Margaret Nassief, +1 Dec., 2007	Odette George, +16 Dec. 2020
Tamam Mitchell, +16 Dec., 2007	Lila Awad, +27 Dec. 2020
Bahat Bicker, +8 Dec. 2008	Nicholas Nassir, +28 Dec., 2020
Bradley Abraham, +8 Dec. 2010	Georgette Al-Adaas, +25 Dec., 2021
Mary Wassef, +7 Dec., 2011	David Castro, +29 Dec., 2021
Rodney Khalil, +10 Dec. 2011	Millie Castro, +30 Dec., 2021

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

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

Our Virtual Bible Study on The Book of Genesis will be held on Tuesday evening, December 6th, at 7 p.m. We will be concluding our study of Abraham and meeting again on January 10th. A Zoom Meeting link will be provided by e-mail on Tuesday.

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: Joe Ayoub.

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 Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra the Wonderworker - Tuesday, Nov. 6
Great Vespers, 7 p.m. at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
[9501 Balboa Blvd, Northridge]

**The Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ and
The Feast of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker** – December 11th
Saturday, December 10th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.
Sunday, December 11th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Teen SOYO Raffle

Additional tickets for our Annual Teen SOYO Raffle will be available each Sunday until the date of the drawing next Sunday, December 11, 2022. 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.

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTS

The Prince of Peace

December 11th 2022



11:30 am

immediately following the Liturgy

Lenten Lunch to Follow

proceeds benefit St. Michael Church School Program



Christmas **TOY DRIVE**

FOR
ELIZABETH
HOUSE

NEW TOYS FOR
AGES 0-12YRS

ST. MICHAEL'S ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

ACCEPTING DONATIONS NOW THRU DECEMBER 11TH

HELP BRIGHTEN A CHILDS CHRISTMAS WITH THE GIFT OF GIVING. THIS YEAR WE ARE DONATING TO A SAFE HOUSE FOR WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE REACH OUT TO BRITTNEY AJALAT @ 818-434-3558 OR BLAJALAT@GMAIL.COM.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

**FESTIVE
YULETIDE
GATHERING**

***JOIN US FOR AN
EVENING OF
FELLOWSHIP &
YULETIDE CHEER!***

**An Advent Potluck at
St Michael**

**Monday Evening
December 12th at 6pm**

**Please RSVP to Charmaine at
cdarmour@sbcglobal.net**



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 16th – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 18th – 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 23rd (4th Day of the Forefeast)

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

The Ninth Royal Hour, 3 p.m. followed by Vespers of the Forefeast

Saturday, December 24th (Saturday before the Nativity; the *Paramon*)

Orthros of the Forefeast, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom,* 10 a.m.

Great Vespers of the Nativity, 3 p.m.

The Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Orthros of the Nativity and the Christmas Canon, 8:30 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 10 a.m.

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

The Leave-taking of The Holy Nativity

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

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

Sunday, 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)

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

The Great and Royal Hours, 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.

Friday, January 6th — Festal Orthros, 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by
The Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* 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

His Beatitude, Patriarch JOHN, Antiochian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East

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. Should you be able to participate in our Christmas food collection the following are suggested:

1. Monetary donation: 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 from your purchases.
3. Loaves and Fishes is also in need of the following items: Personal care items including, deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary napkins and disposable razors; baby items such as size 4-5 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 for \$10.

All food items must be delivered to our Church Kitchen by Sunday, December 18th. 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

Charity Coordinator

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Dec 11 - The Meena family
Dec 18 - Ron & Kathy Zraick
Dec 24 - open
Dec 25 - open
Jan 01 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Church School Lenten Luncheon

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

Upcoming Events

[Note: You may now access our Google Parish Calendar to your personal calendar.

Here is the link: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmc>]

Advent Retreat: “Simplicity An Advent Reorientation”

(St. Michael Church, Whittier) December 10; 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Speaker: Father Ted Pulcini (RSVP - November 27)

Church School Christmas Program and Lenten Lunch

Sunday, December 11 (see flier)

Women’s Advent Potluck - Monday, December 12, 6 p.m. (see flier)

Teen Christmas Caroling - Saturday, December 17

St. Nicholas Cathedral New Year’s Celebration - 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 31st; \$155/person; \$55/ages 5-12

Young Adult Ministry Winter Retreat - January 13-16, 2023
at Big Bear; \$225/person by December 3 (see flier)

Building Funds Capital Funds Campaign

As 2022 is coming to an end and we anticipate worshipping in our new church sanctuary in a relatively short time, we must consider the continued financial support needed to complete our Building Project.

Our project is divided in two parts: Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 is the actual church building and includes the exterior property improvements required by the City of Los Angeles Building Department. The exterior property improvement requirements include: a) a new Vanowen Street base wall and fence, electric gate, landscaping (currently underway), b) parking lot repairs, including slurry sealing, stripping, c) disabled persons and low emission vehicle signs; d) a trash shed enclosure must also be erected, with water and power provided to the structure. St. Michael Church will also be required to complete: e) electrical vehicle parking space connections and f) a bicycle rack.

Phase 2 of the Project includes the interior Byzantine church iconography and furniture that many of you have witnessed in the course of construction. The fourth installation of iconography is scheduled to begin at the end of this month. The work has been overseen by our Pastor, the V. Rev. Timothy Baclig.

We need everyone's continued financial support of Phase I of the Project since we have fallen short in funding the external requirements.

As you consider your possible tax liability to the IRS for 2022, we ask that you consider making a donation to the St. Michael Church Building Fund which can be a substantial tax deduction for you. It truly is a win-win situation for you and St. Michael. Please consider a financial contribution according to your situation, with a cheerful heart.

If you have any questions with regards to Phase 1 please direct them to our Project Manager Michael Malouf michael@jacksonia.com, Ron Zraick ronaldzraick@gmail.com, and for any questions regarding Phase 2 Sponsorships to Fr. Timothy at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Bear in mind that your first responsibility is an annual pledge to the General Fund of our parish in support of our month-to-month expenses. Pledge Forms for the New Year are now available with this bulletin (below) and may be provided to any parishioner upon request.

**SAINT MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH
2023 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, credit card payments in-person, automatic bill pay, automatic payments from your bank (See back). Church address: 16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406-4622; Website: www.stmichaelvannuys.org**

Ways to pay your pledge or donation:

- 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 _____

Pastor's Sermon

The Tenth Sunday of Luke

by V. Rev. Timothy Baclig

December 4, 2022

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 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 failed to practice and demonstrate mercy. Every Lenten season our lessons point to what it means to be non-hypocritical. Jesus 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 3

الايوثينا 3

TONE 8

اللحن 8

**THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR BARBARA OF SYRIA
AND THE TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

Venerable John of Damascus

Martyr Juliana; New-hieromartyr Seraphim, bishop of Phanarion in Greece

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثامن

انحدرت من العلوّ يا متحنن، وقلتِ الدفنَ ذا الثلاثةِ الأيامِ، لكي تُعْتَقْنَا من الآلامِ، فيا
حياتنا وقيامتنا يا ربَّ المجدِّ لك.

طروبارية للقديسة بربارة باللحن الثامن

لِنُكْرِمَنَّ القديسةَ بربارةَ الكليةِ الوقارِ، لأنّها حطّمتْ فِخاخَ العدوِّ، ونجّتْ مِنْهَا
كالعُصفورِ بِمَعُونَةِ الصَّليبِ وسِلاحِهِ.

طروبارية للقديس يوحنا الدمشقي باللحن الثالث

بُلبُلُ غرِيْدُ شَجِي النعمةِ، * رائِعُ النشيدِ ألهُ النعمةِ، * أَعْنَى بيعةِ المسيحِ
بالترنيمات. * أعني يوحنا الدمشقي المُرَنَّم، * لَهُ فلنصنعَ مديحًا إذ نلتئم. * شَيْخُ
الناظمين، * إمامُ الآباءِ الفاهمين * عُلُومِ الأَرْضِيَّاتِ والسَّمَاوِيَّاتِ.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسّلُ إليكم نحن غيرَ المستحقّين، حتّى أنكم
بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظلِّ أجنحةِ مجدكم غيرِ الهيولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجاشين
والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقدونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القواتِ العلويةِ.

قنداق تقدمة الميلاد على اللحن الثالث

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

الرسالة

(للقديسة بربارة)

عجيبٌ هو الله في قديسيه.

باركوا الرب يا جميع الأمم.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل غلاطية.

يا إخوة، قبل أن يأتي الإيمان كنا محروسين تحت الناموس، مُغلقاً علينا إلى الإيمان العتيدي أن يعلن. إذا قد كان الناموس مؤدينا إلى المسيح، لكي نتبرر بالإيمان. ولكن بعد ما جاء الإيمان، لسنا بعد تحت مؤدب. لأنكم جميعاً أبناء الله بالإيمان بالمسيح يسوع. لأن كلكم الذين اعتمدتم بالمسيح قد لبستم المسيح: ليس يهودي ولا يوناني. ليس عبد ولا حر. ليس ذكر وأنثى، لأنكم جميعاً واحد في المسيح يسوع. فإن كنتم للمسيح، فأنتم إذا نسل إبراهيم، وحسب الموعد ورثة. وأقول: ما دام الوارث قاصراً لا يفرق شيئاً عن العبد، مع كونه صاحب الجميع. بل هو تحت أوصياء ووكلاء إلى الوقت المؤجل من أبيه. هكذا نحن أيضاً: لما كنا قاصرين، كنا مستعبدين تحت أركان العالم. ولكن لما جاء ملء الزمان، أرسل الله ابنه مولوداً من امرأة، مولوداً تحت الناموس، ليفتدي الذين تحت الناموس، لننال التبني.

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، فانتصبت في

الحالِ ومجدتِ الله. فقالَ رئيسُ المجمع للحاضرين وهو مغتاظٌ، لأنَّ يسوعَ أبرأ في السبتِ: "عندكم ستةُ أيامٍ ينبغي العملُ فيها، ففيها تأتون وتستشفون، لا في يومِ السبتِ!" فأجابه الربُّ: "يا مرائي! أما يحلُّ كلُّ واحدٍ منكم رباطَ ثوره أو حماره في السبتِ من المذودِ ويأخذه ليسقيه؟ وهذه ابنةُ إبراهيم ربَّطها الشيطانُ من ثمانِي عشرة سنة، أما كان ينبغي أن تُحلَّ من رباطها يومَ السبتِ؟" ولما قال هذا، خزي جميعُ معارضيه، وفرحَ الجمعُ بكلِّ الأعمالِ 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 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.