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 richard@aaaflag.com wassefm@msn.com Subdeacon Magued Wassef 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 sweetthing53@roadrunner.com

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of No. America (AOCWNA)

Chapter President - Charmaine Darmour cdarmour@sbcglobal.net Church Comptroller - Mary Ann Coury maryanncoury@aol.com Choir Director - Art Danks artdanks1@yahoo.com Church School Director - Lila Coudsy lcoudsy@aol.com crowe31@gmail.com Youth Director - Cooper Rowe 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 richard@AAAFLAG.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 Milkie milkief@aol.com Webmaster - Dan Raju dan.raju16@hotmail.com Coffee Hour Coordinator - Cindy Tamoush famtam5@socal.rr.com Head Usher - Ramez Hage jeddo.ramez@gmail.com

The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat Fare)

Martyrs Euthropios, Kleonikos and Basilicas of Amasea; Hieromartyr Theoretos of Antioch

Sunday, February 23, 2020

Tone 3; Eothinon 3

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

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 Prodigal Son (Tone 1)

When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday of the Last Judgment)

The Lord is my strength and my praise. The Lord chastising has chastised me, but He hath not delivered me over to death.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care, lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you—a man of knowledge—at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And

so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

THE GOSPEL (for the Sunday of the Last Judgment)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?' And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Synaxarion

On February 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna; Venerable Gorgonia, sister of Gregory the Theologian; Venerable Zebinas, Polychronios, Moses and Damian near Cyrrhus in Syria; and Venerable Damian of Esphigmenou Monastery on Mount Athos.

Today, we commemorate the Second and impartial Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses

When the Judge of all sitteth to judge the earth, Come now! Mayest Thou judge me worthy of Thy voice!

It is the Sunday of the Last Judgment—known also as Meat Fare Sunday—the lesson of which occurs in today's Holy Gospel. Jesus illustrates to us God's ineffable goodness and His great love for mankind. And so lest some who are lazy should loiter and spend the time appropriate to their salvation in the pursuit of sin, and be suddenly overtaken by death, the divine Fathers decree that on this day the remembrance of the Second Appearance of Christ may be celebrated. The intention is to remind them that, as God is good and loving to mankind, He is also a very righteous Judge Who recompenses each according to his deeds. Our Lord teaches us that when we minister to our brother or sister, we really minister to Him. This brings us righteousness and life eternal.

By Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ God, make us worthy of Thy devoted voice, number us among Thy righteous ones and have mercy on us. Amen.

A Note Regarding Holy Communion

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, *only* those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent Confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered this morning by Phyllis Grates with prayers for the blessings of good health for all persons celebrating February birthdays.

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

for the one-year memorial of the servant of God, Rita Fadel (+24, February, 2019), beloved aunt of George Saade. Memory eternal.

for our dear Cristina Maria Tortolano observing her natal day.

May God's guiding light continue to shine bright and enrich her life abundantly with his blessings of good health and happiness (Offered by her loving family)

Emile Skaff sincerely appreciates all of the helpers and parishioners who worked to make this year's Annual Pancake Breakfast for our Church School a great success!!! Thank you very much!

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Note: Today ("Meat Fare") is the final day for consuming all meat products, However, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil may be consumed on any day of this week.]

The Sunday of the Cheese Fare*

<u>Great Vespers</u> – Saturday, February 29th, 5 p.m. <u>Orthros</u> – Sunday, March 1st, 8:45 a.m.; <u>Divine Liturgy</u>, 10 a.m.

The Beginning of Great Lent – Monday, March 2nd Lenten Weekday Services

<u>Great Compline</u> – Mondays, 6:30 p.m. <u>Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts</u> – Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. [followed by a parish Lenten meal]

- "Akathist"/"Madeyeh" (Service of Intercessory Prayer) Fridays, 6:30 p.m.
- * the final day for consuming all dairy products, eggs, fish wine and oil. A traditional fasting discipline is observed during the Great Fast, which lasts from Pure Monday (March 2nd) through Great and Holy Saturday (April 18th). Katalysis (provision) for wine and oil is made on Saturdays and Sundays [with the exception of Great and Holy Saturday when there is katalysis for wine, but not for oil (implying food made more tasty by being cooked in or with oil as opposed to simple xerophagy of 'dry eating,' meaning raw fruits, vegetables and grains or those soaked or cooked in water)]. On the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25th) and Palm Sunday (April 12th), fish, wine and oil are permitted.

IMPORTANT NOTE: One should bear in mind that fasting is not an end it itself, but a means to a spiritual goal. One's health should not be jeopardized in fasting. The Church does not recommend those persons such as expectant mothers or those requiring medication to ignore their doctor's instructions. One should also consider how abstaining from social activities and various other pleasures may also be helpful. Should you have questions, please speak with Fr. Timothy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Lenten Dinner Host Scheduling

Great Lent begins on Monday, March 2nd. Each Wednesday evening a simple Lenten meal is hosted by a group of families of our parish following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, beginning on March 4 — hosted by families of our Church School. If you have not participated in previous years and would like to be included in a group on the following Wednesday evenings, please phone Rima Hage in the evenings at: 818-366-2119, or email her at: <ri>mail her at: <ri>mahingh@yahoo.com> to sign-up and she will gladly provide you with further details on being part of a group. The menu is vegan and should be modest and not elaborate.

March is Women's Month in the Antiochian Archdiocese

Ladies: Would you like to volunteer to help usher in March? Please speak with Mary Ann Mitchell to sign-up: mitchellmarya@gmail.com or speak with Mary Ann.

Upcoming Events (see the foyer bulletin board for more information)

Cheese Fare Sunday - March 2 "Clean Monday" (first day of Great Lent) - March 3

The Sunday of Orthodoxy Great Vespers - Sunday, March 8, 2020 St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church (Irvine) - Youth Rally (ages 5-12), 5 p.m. Great Vespers, Procession and Reception, 6 p.m.

Young Parent's Ministry Park Gathering - Saturday, March 14

"The Mother of God in Our Lives" Lenten Retreat - March 20-22 St. Andrew Church (Riverside)

St. Michael Ladies Annunciation Tea - Saturday, March 28 Speaker: Mother Paraskeva of St. Barbara Monastery Topic: "Sow to the Spirit: Preparing Now for the World to Come"

Antiochian Women's Annual Lenten Retreat - April 3-5, 2020 at Camp St. Nicholas; speaker: Father Calinic Berger



We welcome the Archdiocese Winter Sacred Music Institute Participants Worshipping with Us This Morning

The Institute Faculty includes: Mareena Boosamra, Chair of the Department of Sacred Music; Kris Howard, Chris Farha, Regina Roum, Chris Holwey, Charlie Marge, Father John Finley, Father Kevin Gregory, Nancy Hanna, Khouriye Nancy Long. Sixty-five registrants participated in this year's Institute (February 20-23, 2020).

Join Us Today Following Liturgy for Our Annual Chili Cook-off

Hot dogs and chips will also be provided with dessert and beverages. This year's proceeds are to help FOCUS No. America. \$7/Adults; \$5/kids under 12; \$20/Families

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Mar 01 - open

Mar 08 - the Khouri family

Mar 15 - Adeeb & Nuha Abughazaleh

Mar 22 - open

Mar 29 - open

Apr 05 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Mar 01 - open (Cheese Fare)

Mar 08 - open

Mar 15 - Nuha & Adeeb Abughazaleh

Mar 22 - open

Mar 29 - open

Apr 05 - Kathy & Ron Zraick

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; <u>pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org</u>) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and Cindy Tamoush at: (818-345-4363; <u>famtam5@socal.rr.com</u>) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.

Please Do Not Enter the Construction Site

Please stay clear from the fenced are and keep all children away from the construction site on our property to avoid any accident or unintended mishap. Thank you for your cooperation. Should you desire to have a walking tour of the new church sanctuary, please speak with Father Timothy to arrange for a special walk-through. Father will be able to provide answers to any questions you have concerning the interior design of the church at that time and to provide you with first-hand information regarding the sponsorships of various sections of the building.

Church School Festival Workshop: Sunday, Feb. 23rd, and Mar. 1st

from 11:15 to 12 noon in the Church School Classrooms.

It is our hope to have an entry by each of our children at this year's Parish Life Conference in the:

Creative Arts Festivals (Feb. 23)



Creative Writing and Poetry (Mar. 1)



NOTE: <u>Late entries CANNOT be accepted</u>. Sorry.

For further information, please speak with our Church School teachers or visit the Archdiocese website at: < http://www.antiochian.org/festivals>.

What is a "Hate Crime?"

On February 14th, 2019, Deacon Andrew Monsue attended the West Valley Clergy Council Meeting at the LAPD West Valley Division Station and provided our Parish Council with a report from the presentations made by Detectives Jude Bella and Armando Monarrez. His report, in part, included the following definitions:

A hate crime is any criminal act or attempt directed against a person(s), public agency, or private institution based on the victim's ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, or because the agency, institution or victim is identified or associated with a person or group of an identifiable race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender.

Hate Incidents is any noncriminal act including words directed against a person(s) based on that person's actual or perceived race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender, such as epithets, distribution of hate material in public places, posted hate material that does not result in property damages or display of offensive material on one own property.

Hate Crimes are: a) acts that results in injuries, no matter how small; b) threats of violence that look like they can be carried out; c) vandalism or other destructive acts resulting in property damage; d) any criminal act or attempted criminal act directed against public or private or private agencies; e) harassment, including anonymous telephone calls, threatening letters, f) interruptions of religious services; g) murder; h) threats made verbally, in writing and by means of electronic communication devices which can apparently be carried out. (Electronic communication device includes, but is not limited to, telephones, cellular telephones, computers, video recorders, fax machines, or pagers.)

Hate crimes can be prosecuted either as misdemeanors or felonies, depending on the severity of the acts committed. Hates crimes and hate incidents are tracked by the Police Department and are given priority during the follow up investigation by LAPD.

Historically, hate crimes have been under reported; thus, many are not prosecuted. In West Valley Division in 2017, there were 11 hate crimes and four hate incidents reported, in 2018, there were 7 hate crimes and 4 hate incidents reported. The majority were investigated as misdemeanors and involved vandalism to property.

The California Penal Code, Sections 422-455, identifies the "symbols of terror" as: the Nazi Swaskita, the burning of a Cross and a noose. The items are traditionally identified as means of creating terror. Identifying criminal acts as a hate crime is usually based upon the nature of the **criminal actions** of the perpetrator(s), along with the target and/or the victim(s) being one of six protected groups listed above.

May the Holy Archangel Michael shelter under his wings, guard and protect all of our faithful and all God-loving peoples!

PASTORAL SERMON The Sunday of Meat Fare By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig February 23, 2020

The themes of love and judgment are often mentioned together in the Bible and in Christian prayers and hymns. For example in St. John's epistle we read: *God is love, and whoever lives in love lives in union with Him. Love is made perfect in us in order that we may have courage on the Judgment Day (I John 4:16-17).*

In the Gospel of St. John we hear: For God so loved the world that He gave is only Son... God did not send His Son into the world to be its **judge**, but to be its Savior. Whoever believes in the Son is not **judged**; but whoever does not believe has already been **judged** (John 3:16-18).

In a petition heard in our Liturgy we hear the words: For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord... Jesus Christ is our "good defense." He is our advocate and has provided the atonement for our sins by His voluntary sacrifice. Our petition is a plea for His love and mercy.

But you may ask what about all of the fearful descriptions of hell, fire and brimstone in the Bible? These are warnings in pictorial representation, just as they are found in icons. However, these images are not interpreted as geographic or physical places created by God for the punishment of human beings. They are admonitions with a clear and serious message: Life outside of the love of God results in evil, falsehood,

hatred, guilt, alienation, and pain. Life apart from God leads to agony of darkness in which people torment themselves and each other. It is a spiritual hell created not by God but by the willful refusal to turn to God, Who is love, in order to be forgiven, cleansed, renewed and liberated.

How can the Lord of love and goodness be also the Lord of judgment? Is there an inconsistency in the images of God as a loving Father and God as a righteous Judge? The Church Fathers answered this perplexing difficulty by affirming that God is always a loving Father for everyone—both righteous and sinners. In this life, and in the life to come, everyone who is desirous of knowing God, experience the radiance of God's love, however those who have separated themselves from God experience the same radiance of God's love as fire of judgment—a "scourge of love," as described by St. Isaac the Syrian.

God does not **cause** judgment at any time. He is not vengeful to evildoers nor does He prepare a place of punishment (Hell). This does not mean that Hell does not exist. It does. However, God is love and by His very nature He cannot do what is evil, hateful, or destructive to anyone. Judgment and hell are spiritual conditions of sin and darkness. Judgment **results** when someone is separated from God who is the source of light and life. Judgment also results when we willfully shut ourselves off from God's redeeming love.

Through the Parable of the Last Judgment, Christ teaches us that heaven and hell pertain to the fulfillment of physical and spiritual needs. That fulfillment is determined by choices. Each day we make choices on a path to holiness or unrighteousness. These choices are directly related to our physical and spiritual well being. Christ taught us by His example and teaching that the main virtues of Christians are faithful obedience and loving service to God and to each other. Great Lent is a time for sorting out our real needs from the distortion of false needs. I call it "the Church's forty-day rehabilitation of the soul." By bringing shaper focus upon what is necessary from what is not, we can in fact be able to do more in helping others. This is precisely the point of today's Gospel lesson.

The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat Fare)

Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna; Venerable Gorgonia, sister of Gregory the Theologian; Venerable Zebinas, Polychronios, Moses and Damian near Cyrrhus in Syria; Venerable Damian of Esphigmenou Monastery on Mount Athos

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثالث

لتفرح السماويات وتبتهج الارضيات, لانّ الربّ صنعَ عزاً بساعدِه, ووطئ الموتَ بالموت, وصارَ .بكرَ الاموات, وأنقذنا من جوفِ الجحيم, ومنح العالمَ الرحمةَ العظمى

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيّها المتقدّمونَ على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسّلُ إليكم نحن غيرَ المستحقّين، حتّى أَنّكم بطلباتِكم تكتنو فوننا بظلّ أجنحة مجدِكم غير الهيولي، حافظينَ إيّانا نحنُ الجاثين والصارخينَ بغير فتور، أنقذونا منَ الشدائد، بما أنّكم رؤساءُ مراتب القوّاتِ العلوية.

قنداق مرفع اللحم على اللحن الأول

متى جئتَ يا اللهُ على الأرضِ بمجدٍ فسيرتعد منكَ كلّ شيءٍ ونهرُ النارِ سيجري أمامَ منبرِ الدينونة والخفايا ستُعلن حينئذ أنقذني من النارِ التي لا تُطفأ وأهلني للوقوف عن يمينيك أيها القاضي العادل.

الرسالة

قوتي وتسبيحتي الرب, أدباً أدبني الرب

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى أهل كورنشس

يا اخوة أو إن الطعام لا يقرّبنا إلى الله فإن أكلنا لا نكسب شيئا وإن لم نأكل لا نخسر شيئا ولكن انظروا أن لا تكون حريتكم هذه حجر عثار للضعفاء فإنْ رآك أحد يا صاحب المعرفة تأكل في بيت الأوثان ألا يتشجع إذا كان ضعيف الضمير فيأكل من ذبائح الأوثان؟ فيهلك بسبب معرفتك الأخ الضعيف الذي مات المسيح من أجله وهكذا تخطئون إلى المسيح حين تخطئون إلى الاخوة وتجرحون ضمائر هم الضعيفة فإذا كان الطعام يشكك أخي فلن آكل لحما إلى

الأبد, لئلا أشكك أخي. أما أنا رسول؟ أما أنا حر؟ أما رأيت ربنا يسوع المسيح؟ أما أنتم عملي في الرب؟ وإن لم أكن رسولا عند غيركم, فإني رسول عندكم, لأنكم أنتم خاتم رسالتي في الرب

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس متى

قال الربّ: متى جاء ابنُ البشر في مجدِه ومعه جميعُ الملائكة القديسين يستوي على عرش مجدِه. وتُحشد أمامه جميعُ الشعوبِ فيميز بعضهم من بعض مثلما يميز الراعى الخراف عن الجداء, فيقيم الخراف عن يمينه, والجداء عن يساره. ويقول للذين عن يمينه: تعالوا, يا من باركهم أبي رثوا الملك المهيأ لكم منذ إنشاء العالم لأنى جعت فأطعمتموني وعطشت فسقتموني وكنت غريبا فأويتموني و عريانا فكسوتموني, ومريضا فزرتموني, وسجينا فجئتم إلى. فيجيبه الصديقون: يا رب, متى رأيناك جائعا فأطعمناك؟ أو عطشانا فسقيناك؟ ومتى رأيناك غريبا فأويناك؟ أو عريانا فكسوناك؟ ومتى رأيناك مريضا أو سجينا فجئنا اليك؟ فيجيبهم الملك: الحق أقول لكم: بما أنكم فعلتم هذا لواحد من اخوتي الصغار, فلي فعلتموه! ثم يقول للذين عن يساره: ابتعدوا عنى يا ملاعين. إلى النار الأبدية المهيأة لإبليس وملائكته: لأنى جعتُ فلم تطعموني, وعطشت فلم تسقوني, وكنت غريبا فلم تؤووني, وعرينا فلم تكسوني, ومريضا وسجينا فلم تزوروني. فيجيبه هؤلاء: يا رب متى رأيناك جائعا أو عطشانا وغريبا أو عريانا ومريضا أو سجينا ولم نخدمك؟ فيجيبهم الملك: الحق أقول لكم: بما أنكم لم تفعلوا هذا لواحد من اخوتى الصغار, فلى لم تفعلوه! فيذهب هؤلاء إلى العذاب الأبدي, والصديقون إلى الحياة الأبدية

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 (و على كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذي يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس.) رجاء مراجعة الكاهن إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضوا في الكنيسة الارثوذكسية