

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 stmichaelvanuys.org

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of all North America www.antiochian.org

Archpriest Timothy Baclig, Pastor frtimothy@stmichaelvanuys.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@stmichaelvanuys.com

Parish Council Chair - Kris Thabit ktthabit66@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

Church Comptroller - Mary Ann Coury maryanncoury@aol.com

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@stmichaelvanuys.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 Great and Glorious Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (Holy Pascha)

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Paschal Apolytikion (Tone 5)

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Hapakoe of Pascha (Tone 4)

They who were with Mary came before the dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them: Why seek ye Him as man with the dead, Who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for He is the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8)

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointmentbearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for Pascha)

*This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.*

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to

depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

THE GOSPEL (for Pascha)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. John
(1:1-17)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Next Sunday is **Thomas Sunday**

Saturday, April 25th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 26th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Epitaphios (*E-pee-TAH-fee-os*), which has been placed on the altar – representing the Tomb of Christ, will remain on the altar until the Feast of the Ascension (Thursday, June 6th). At that time, the image of Christ will be returned to the Cross. The image of the entombed Christ, however is a permanent part of the altar as the “tablecloth” (Antimension; *Anti-MEN-see-on*), resting under the Gospel Book. It is opened for the “anaphora” (time of the offering in the Liturgy), or the second part of the Divine Liturgy when the bread and wine are placed on the altar for consecration. It is a cloth signed by the Metropolitan Archbishop and is the church’s credentials as a canonical Orthodox Church of Apostolic succession.

A WORD WE NEED TO KNOW: PASCHA (*PAAS-kah*)

Easter is the focal point of the church calendar when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The word *Pascha* is the Aramaic derivation of the Hebrew word: *Pesach*, which means Passover. Jesus and most of the early Christians spoke Aramaic, and as the faith spread, the word was retained. We understand Christ to be our *passage* (or Passover) from death to life, our Pascha!

Leaves on the floor?

At the morning service of Holy Saturday, the triumphant announcement of Christ’s victory over death is heard with the fanfare, “Arise, O God, and judge the earth...” followed by the Great Prokeimenon: “Who is so great a god as our God! Thou art the God who doest wonders!” Bay leaves are scattered throughout the church during a procession with verses sung that speak of all of creation being renewed. The throwing of the leaves throughout the church is a sign of the entrance of the King (as was done in the early Roman world when the King returned from a victorious battle). The colors of the church are changed from dark to light, and the doors of the altar in tonight’s service remain open as a sign of the empty tomb. They will remain open throughout all of the next week, called: “Bright Week,” and closed at sundown on “Bright Saturday,” the eve of Thomas Sunday.

“Renewal Week”

The week following Easter in the Orthodox Church is a full celebration of Christ’s Resurrection. The entire week is known as “Bright Week” or “Renewal Week” because the entire creation is renewed in Christ. During the coming week and for the next forty days there is no fasting at all. From the period of Easter to the Feast of the Ascension (Thursday May 28th), Orthodox Christians greet each other with “Christ is Risen!” and the response: “Truly, He is risen!” During this period we also do not kneel in private or congregational prayer. Traditionally, a Divine Liturgy is held with a Paschal procession every day during Bright Week. The unique character of the season is heard in all services: funerals, baptisms, weddings, etc.

HOLY WEEK and PASCHAL OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is offered by John & Katrina Tambouras for the health of the Habib and Tambouras families and in loving memory of Matthew Tambouras (+23 April, 2016) and Jamilie Habib (+13 April 1995). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is offered by Jeanice Rose Deeb in loving memory of her Godfather and father's brother, Dr. George Deeb (+3 April, 2020) of Tucson, Arizona; brother of Alice Andrews, the late Dr. Edward Deeb and Carrie Deeb Skaff. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is offered by Laila Dawud for the health of her family: Nadeem, David, Nahil, Neveen, Natalie, Assad, Assad, Dema, Emily and Andrew; her brothers: Jaleel, George and Bassam; also in memory of her beloved husband, Assad (born: April 16, 1941) and daughter Dema Dawud. Memory eternal.

Roses for the tomb of Christ are being offered by Jeanice Rose Deeb and the Deeb family in loving memory of their departed loved ones: Edward & Marion Deeb; Caren Deeb Kouri, Rose Deeb, Eli Deeb; Carrie Deeb Skaff; Sam & Amelia Nader, Anthony, Rhoda, Elsie, Eddie & Elsie Barkett, Jeannette & Louis Aboud, Vilma Anthony, Sharon Rowihab, Jimmy George, Lillian Meena, Loretta Namay, Rickey Namay and the newly-departed George Deeb. May they rest in peace. Memory eternal.

Flowers are being offered by Tony Nader in loving memory of his parents Mr. & Mrs. Aref Nader, and father-in-law, Youssef Habak. Memory eternal.

Oil for the for the Sacrament of Holy Unction was offered for the continued health of the Haitham Sweis family.

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

by Charles and Marilee Ajalat for the healing of Rose Ajalat

for the hearing of mind, body and soul of Rosy Daniels by Rachel Freed.

by Michelle & Waleed Moujaes for the healing
and continued health of Jeff Kulp.

by Lila Coudsy for Bishop Gregory Mansour of Brooklyn, New York,
also all of our civil authorities and first responders.

THE SERVICES OF GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

NOTE: Due to our current attendance restrictions, all services will be available by live-streaming and recorded via FaceBook and YouTube. The easiest access is through our parish website homepage links at: www.stmichaelvannuys.org

Great and Holy Wednesday – April 15th

The Orthros of Great and Holy Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Thursday – April 16th

Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 a.m.

Orthros of the Twelve Passion Gospels, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Friday – April 17th

Great Vespers of the Descent from the Cross, 3:30 p.m.

Orthros of the Lamentations, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Saturday – April 18^h

Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9 a.m.

SERVICES OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION – HOLY PASCHA (April 18)

The “Rush Procession” Orthros, 11:30 p.m.

The Divine Liturgy

Holy Pascha – April 19th **The Paschal Vespers of Love (Agape) 10 a.m.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Live-streaming Sunday Orthros and Liturgy

Plan to view all of our scheduled church services on-line by logging on to: either **FaceBook** or **YouTube** via our parish website: <www.stmichaelvannuys.org> Your church offering may be made on-line via our website “Donation” tab or by mailing your check to the church at: 16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406

Zoom Meetings Scheduled [Please note the “security password”]

5th and 6th Graders — Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. Log on to: <https://zoom.us/j/727650129?pwd=MDVndmNyaS9qTjMzMSttZ1ltMXpCdz09> and use the security password: **juniors**

Young Parents and Children: Easter Egg Dying (Pre-K to 4th Graders) — Friday, April 17, beginning at 3 p.m. just prior to the live-streaming of The Vespers of “The Taking Down from the Cross” at 3:30 p.m. Log on to: <https://zoom.us/j/910391809?pwd=OGZWbnBGMHF0MUNBOWNDeUcvSkRHQT09> and use the security password: **Parents**

Teens — Friday, April 17, beginning at 8:30 p.m. following the live-streaming of The Lamentations Orthros at 6:30 p.m. Log on to: <https://zoom.us/j/94583500553?pwd=Rjl4Y2FmUGRqeGh3WmdzeXlLaC8rUT09> and use the security password: **teens**

Young Adults — Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 2 a.m. [To be announced]

Note: Father Timothy would welcome scheduling a Zoom Meeting with you and your family at any time by appointment.

Lenten Study: “Building a Worshipping Community”

All of Father Timothy’s presentations: “Building a Worshipping Community” are now available on-line. Visit our parish website homepage <stmichaelvannuys.org> and click onto link of the presentations on the slider: Part I - “Children in Church;” Part II - “Church Hymnography; Antiphonal Singing and Chanting;” Part III - “Iconography in the Church; Their Order and Placement;” Part IV - “The Iconostasis, Its Purpose and Function.” Part V, soon to be available will focus on “The ‘Assembly of the Faithful’ in the Nave and Its Furniture.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Agape” / “Baouth” Vespers – Sunday, April 26th, 10 a.m.

[Note: The Annual Church School “Search for the Empty Egg” will take place virtually as a Zoom Meeting.]

Thanks to All!

We sincerely thank everyone who assisted with all that was needed to be done in preparing the church for our worship services throughout Great Lent and Holy Week. We especially thank my Pastoral Assistant, Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, our Choir Director, Art Danks; our chanters and singers: Joe Ayoub, Rachel & William Grundler, and Michael Paraskevas; also Subdeacon Richard Tamoush, Regan Hines; our Webmaster, Dan Raju, FaceBook Editor, Charmaine Darmour; and assisting us with additional audio equipment, Constantine Nasr, Jr. Helping with our Church School Zoom Meetings: Lila Coudsy our Church School Director, and Cooper Rowe, Youth Director.

The Blessing of Easter Baskets

At the end of the live-streaming of The Paschal Liturgy, Father Timothy will be blessing Easter baskets. We also thank everyone for their contributions to our Food for the Hungry People collection this year.

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, April 20th at 7 p.m.

Holy Friday Teen Vigil - April 26

Our teens will again be participating in our Annual Vigil that will take place on Holy Friday, April 17, following the Holy Friday Lamentations service in a special Zoom Meeting on-line with Father Timothy and Cooper Rowe, our Youth Director. A link will be provided with a passcode. For more information please contact Cooper at: crowe31@gmail.com

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Apr 16 - (Great and Holy Thursday Liturgy)
Apr 18 - (Great and Holy Saturday Liturgies)
Apr 19 - Holy Pascha
Church School Easter egg Hunt (Cancelled)
Apr 26 - (Thomas Sunday) open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Paschal Breakfast (Cancelled)
Apr 26 - (Cancelled)

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

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

St. Michael Ladies Annunciation Tea - **Postponed to August 15**

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 (**Cancelled**)

Holy Friday Teen Vigil - Friday, April 17, 8:30 p.m. (via live-streaming)

The 57th "Sweetheart Ball" - Saturday, April 25th at the
Universal Hilton Hotel (**Postponed to November 7, 2020**)

Parish Life Conference - July 1-5, 2020 (**Cancelled**)

St. Nicholas Summer Camp - July 12 to August 1, 2020 (**Cancelled**)

Antiochian Clergy Symposium - July 20-24, 2020 (**Cancelled**)

29th Annual St. Michael Annual Golf Classic - Monday, May 18
(**Postponed to Monday, November 2, 2020**)

Save the Date for our St. Michael Golf Classic

Monday, November 2, 2020 is the new postponed date for our 29th Annual Golf Classic. The Committee includes: Emile Skaff (Golf Hole Sponsorships), Robert & DeAnne Abraham (Golf Ball Raffle), Sean & Robyn O'Dea (Gift Basket Raffles). Your contributions of gift cards for our raffles are appreciated. Golf Hole Sponsorships are \$250 (an additional \$50 will provide for your company logo). Your tax deductible check should be made out to: "St. Michael Church," earmarked: "golf hole. Credit card payment are also accepted.

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

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

April 19, 2020

Beloved in Christ,

With great joy we proclaim that Christ is risen! المسيح قام! Χριστος ανέστη!
Христос Воскресе! Cristo ha resucitado! Hristos a înviat! Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!
Truly, He is risen!

In the words of Saint John Chrysostom: "...the Savior's Death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it, has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive... It took a Body and it met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen..."

I want to express my personal thanks and the appreciation from our faithful for the help we've received in this unique time in the history of our Church as we weather the storm of a major public health crisis. And even by facing all that we have, it is my sincere prayer that we have clearly heard in the Paschal proclamation: "...for lo, through the Cross, joy has come into all the world! Ever blessing the Lord let us sing His Resurrection! For in that He has endured the Cross, He has destroyed death by Death!

Celebrating comes with whole hearted preparation. The more the preparation, the greater the celebration. Our time together during Great Lent and Holy Week after half a century as parish community has again been glorious. I will again say, as I did last year: We hopefully pray to be able to celebrate the Feast in our new church sanctuary next year. Our ability to fulfill this task will be achieved as God wills through our dedication and commitment. I am very thankful for those of you who have been faithful in fulfilling their pledge to our Capital Funds Campaign and all who have been regular contributors to our project. The many sacrifices of our Founders and faithful parishioners through the years have thankfully helped us to begin a new era in the life of our parish. Our community continues to grow and all of our ministries are involving many of our new members by offering their talents and skills in service. There are many opportunities for everyone to have a part in the many tasks ahead of us for the glory of God.

I trust that this has been a meaningful season of illumination for you and your family. May the joy of the Paschal Feast fill your life with all that God truly desires for us: those imperishable gifts that are truly not of this world.

Christ is risen!

Father Timothy Baclig

Pastor