

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

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The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost; The Ninth Sunday of Luke

The After-feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

Apostles Philemon, Apphia, Archippos and Onesimos of the Seventy;

Clement, bishop of Ochrid and enlightener of Bulgaria; Martyr Cecilia of Rome and those with her; Venerable Kallistos Xanthopoulos of Athos;

Martyr Michael, prince of Tver; Venerable Iakovos of Evia

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Tone 7; Eothinon 2

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 7)

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

Apolytikion for the Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone 4)

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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 Entrance Theotokos (Tone 4)

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, into the House of the Lord on this day is brought forward and bringeth with herself the grace of the Most Divine Spirit; her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost)

*Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation.
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

THE GOSPEL (for the Ninth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (12:16-21)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

The Synaxarion

On November 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church we continue to celebrate the Entrance of the Theotokos, and we commemorate the holy Apostles of the Seventy: Philemon, Apphia, Archippos and Onesimos, disciples of the Apostle Paul.

Verses

O Disciples of Christ, when called by Christ Jesus,
Ye ran upon a strange road unto your calling.
On the twenty-second they carried Philemon hence.

Philemon was a wealthy nobleman from Colossae in Phrygia; Apphia was his wife who cared for the sick and vagrants. Philemon became Bishop of the Church in Gaza; Archippus became Bishop in Colossae. Onesimus, who was formerly an unbeliever and slave of Philemon, stole certain of his vessels and fled to Rome. However, on finding him there, the Apostle Paul guided him onto the path of virtue and the knowledge of the truth, and sent him back to his master Philemon, to whom he wrote an epistle (one of the fourteen Biblical epistles of Saint Paul). In this epistle, Paul commended Onesimus to his master and reconciled the two. Onesimus was later made a bishop; in Greece he is honored as the patron Saint of the imprisoned. All these Saints received their end by martyrdom in the first century.

On this day, we also commemorate Clement, bishop of Ochrid and enlightener of Bulgaria; Martyr Cecilia of Rome and those with her; Venerable Kallistos Xanthopoulos of Athos; Martyr Michael, prince of Tver; and Venerable Iakovos of Evia. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS FAST – ADVENT

The Church ordains that this preparation begins on November 15. The Fast is forty days long and is sometimes known as Philip's Fast because it begins the day after November 14, which is dedicated to St. Philip the Apostle.

The Fast has very ancient origins. Leo the Great, in the Fifth Century, made mention of it as an ancient, established Fast, which gave importance to the event of the Birth of Christ by the Church, even at that time. The Christians Church did not universally observe the Fast in length and method until the Council of Constantinople in 1166 AD. It was at that Council that the ancient

regulations and various customs and traditions of the churches were studied and forty days was chosen to be most representative.

Many of us want the Feast without the penitential note that precedes it. We want Christmas without Advent. The result is that most of us only “observe” the day of Christmas and fail to “keep” the day holy. The Christmas fast gives us time to meditate upon the meaning of our Lord's coming (God born as a man) – in the past, present, and future. Only to the extent that we prepare carefully for His Coming can we receive Him worthily. Hence, as Christmas approaches, we should be aware of the meaning of the Christmas fast (Advent) upon us and our souls. Consciences need examination; sins need to be forgiven. Above all, souls need refreshment with His Sacramental Presence when the Christmas Fast ends and Christ is born.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Fast of the Holy Nativity - November 15 - December 24

[This fast is divided into two periods: 1) November 15 - December 19 - the traditional fasting discipline includes no meat, poultry, dairy, fish, wine and olive oil on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with provision for wine and oil (some also permit fish) on Tuesdays and Thursdays; with fish, wine and olive oil on Saturdays and Sundays [A dispensation has been provided on Thanksgiving Day, November 26];
2) December 20-24 - the traditional fast is Monday through Friday with provision for wine and olive oil on Sunday, December 24.]

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

Saturday, November 28th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.
Sunday, November 29th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

OFFERINGS

The Holy Bread is being offered by Sonia Karam in loving memory of her husband, Anton (Tony) Karam (+Nov., 2007). Memory eternal. Prayers are also offered for the continued health of her son, Jimmy and his family; daughter, Linda, and her family, and the Abughazaleh, Ababseh, Azzam, Tannous and Karam families.

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

for the repose of Arnold Tropozado Castro (+15 November, 2020),
father of Aaron Castro, friend of Nicholas Juganu. Memory eternal.

for the Townsend and Neyman families by Marcia O'Dea

for Father Minas, Presbytera Nicole and Mary Sarchizian

by Bobbi Monsue for her sister, Virginia Canaday, and daughter, Annie

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, James Mitchell
(+18 November, 2020), beloved brother, brother-in-law and uncle of
Michael Mitchell and family. Memory eternal.

Our special thanks and appreciation to our St. Michael friends for their
sincere prayers, calls, cards. and expressions of love for Ramez's recent
surgery. We are pleased to let you know that he is well on his way to full
recovery. With all our love, Ramez and Rima.

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.

Church Attendance

We are currently limiting attendance at our church services due to the
COVID-19 pandemic. Parishioners must sign-up by informing Father
Timothy to attend our services. If you have been in contact with someone
who is diagnosed with the COVID virus, please self-quarantine at home for
fourteen days. Questions will be answered by Father Timothy by e-mail at:
frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org The Sacrament(s) are also available on
weekdays by appointment.

Church School Virtual Classrooms

Are your children enrolled in our Sunday Church School classes? Please contact our Director, **Lila Coudsy** at lcoudsy@aol.com to be enrolled and to receive our weekly links for each age group. The classroom Zoom links are provided each week via our parish e-mail.

Zoom Meeting Bible Study

Bible Study with Father Timothy — will resume on Tuesday, November 24th at 7 p.m. **Use the link and security password provided in the weekly parish e-mail.**

Note: Father Timothy would also welcome scheduling a Zoom Meeting with you and your family at any time by appointment. Simply e-mail him at [<frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org>](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org).

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael:

Our Election of Parish Council members is underway via Monkey Survey. You should've received an e-mail with a link for you to cast your vote for the three (3), three (3) year vacancies, that will begin on January 1, 2021. If you did not receive the e-mail and are a pledging or regular contributing member of our parish please inform Father Timothy immediately. Votes may be cast up until midnight on Sunday, November 29, 2020. You will only be able to vote for no more than and no less than three (3) candidates for your ballot to be valid in accordance with our Parish Constitution. Also, you will only be able to complete your vote from one computer, per person (i.e., husband and wife). Eligible voting members are "18 years of age or older, Baptized and Confirmed in the Orthodox Church and accept, profess, and practice it's faith and discipline, and

subscribe to the temporal maintenance of this Church through payment of annual pledges, tithes and contribution." [Article III, Section 1, A]

The Parish Council candidates include: **Joe Ayoub** (having completed his first three-year term); **Julie Bitar** (having completed her first appointed one-year term, also serving as Parish Treasurer); **Adam Lamar** (having completed his first three-year term); and **Deacon Andrew Monsue** (having completed his first three-year term). In addition three (3) persons will be appointed for a one-year term by the Pastor and 2021 Council Chair at the start of the New Year.

May God bless us with the spiritual rewards of the Advent season and grant us His continued mercies as we prepare for the coming year.

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig

Pastor

Join in our Parish Bible Study Zoom Meetings

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. The next "Virtual Bible Study Zoom Meeting" will take place on Tuesday evening, November 24th, at 7 p.m. Each study is limited to one hour. **The topic of the seventh of a series on The Book of Revelation is: "Armageddon."** For recorded sessions or study guides, e-mail Father Timothy at: <frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org>.

Christmas Parish Family Video Planned

As we look forward to Nativity of Christ's without being able to be all together, we encourage you to make a short video recording a family message on your phone. You might simply say "Christ is born! Glorify Him" or "Merry Christmas." Design a short family message to everyone in our

parish community. Please send your video by noon on Tuesday, December 15th to Subdeacon Richard Ajalat's e-mail: rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org May you all have a blessed Nativity!

Christmas Toy Collection

We will again be collecting new toys for the children of prisoners. The collection is being planned by Brittney Ajalat of our Young Parent's Ministry. The toys should not include guns or require batteries. We especially need sports items: soccer balls, basketballs, and games for the children. All financial contributions should be turned in no later than Sunday, December 6th, and all toys should be at the church, and placed under the Christmas tree by Sunday, December 13th. All toys and clothing will be distributed by the Archdiocese Prison Ministry with the assistance of our parish of the Holy Cross in Palmdale.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

Dear Parishioners & Friends of St. Michael,

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

1. If you would like me to shop for you, just write a check made out to "St. Michael Church," earmarked "Holiday Food Collection" (a tax incentive).
2. If you are doing your own shopping at Ralph's or Food-4-Less stores, don't forget to use your Ralphs Reward Card to help St. Michael Church to benefit.
3. Loaves and Fishes is also in need of the following: Personal care items including, deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary

napkins and disposable razors; baby items such as diapers, 5T Pull-Ups or larger, and baby formula; bottled water, canned food items (preferably with pull-up tabs), i.e., tuna, chicken, baked beans, fruit, vegetables, chili, soups, pasta/ravioli, peanut butter, Ensure, Carnation Instant Breakfast, coffee, tea; also any store gift cards in \$5 and \$10; clothing and household items.

All food items must be delivered to our Community Center Narthex by Sunday, November 22nd and Sunday December 20th. A cart marked Food Collection will be placed in the Narthex for your donations.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Christ,
Cindy Tamoush

Teen SOYO Raffle

Tickets for our Annual Teen SOYO Holiday Raffle were sent out by snail mail and additional tickets will be available until the date of the drawing, Sunday, December 20, 2020 when the drawing will take place. Proceeds from the raffle will help Teen SOYO sponsor the Special Olympics at the Antiochian Village and our parish youth program.

Parish Christmas Card

Sign-ups have begun for this year's Parish Christmas Card. The purpose of the card is to provide the convenience of having Christmas greetings extended to our hierarchs and parishioners by means of a group card. It also provides the schedule of services for the festal season. The Project is a service that helps to St. Michael to receive donations from parishioners and friends of our community who are listed on the card. The order those listed is not alphabetical, but in a sequence based upon the date the request is received. The form is bine provided on our parish website, by e-mail and upon request.

Building Fund Update

We are still unable to have a clear date for the completion of our Church Building Project for a very important reason: A certified occupancy will be granted by the City of Los Angeles when the Department of Building and Safety verifies that we have complied with the peripheral requirements of our site plan. This means we cannot and may not be able to complete the project without a line of credit (loan) with a lending institution or a parishioner loan program. Some additional LA City requirements may be expected to be completed as a prerequisite for our occupancy.

At the current time we have invested 2.7 million dollars to reach our goal of having a watertight building. As of August 31st we have 1.2 million dollars within our construction Building Fund Account of which one-half of the amount is already committed under contract with third party contractors currently working on the site. By January of 2021 we will have contractually obligated the remainder one-half of the account funds for additional new construction work. Without additional funding it will greatly impede our ongoing progress as we will be unable to contract for any additional work to be done on the project. As has been expressed in the past we estimate our shortfall will be approximately five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) to complete the project.

Your urgent financial help is needed between now and the end of 2020. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation between now and the end of the year to take advantage of any Tax Benefits that would be available to you. It is worth noting that under the CARES ACT (for 2020 ONLY), if you itemize your tax return (without taking the standard deduction: \$24,000 for couples and \$12,400 for most single tax filers) your contribution is 100% deductible instead of 60% as has been the case for years. For more information on a pledge commitment or sponsorship, please contact Ron Zraick at <ronaldzraick@gmail.com> or Father Timothy at: <frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org>.

Upcoming Events

The 57th "Sweetheart Ball" - Universal Hilton
(postponed to: **March 6, 2021**)

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Nov 29 - open
Dec 06 (St. Nicholas) - open
Dec 13 - open
Dec 20 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Note: There are no Coffee
Hours scheduled

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

Personal Tours of our New Church Sanctuary

Personal tours 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

Ancient Faith Radio

Consider spending your time during the fast hearing the educational podcasts of Ancient Faith Radio. Simply go to: www.ancientfaith.com

SCHEDULE OF FESTAL SERVICES

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

The Sunday before The Holy Nativity

“The Sunday of the Genealogy”

Commemorating St. Ignatius of Antioch

Saturday, December 19th – Great Vespers, 5 p.m. [Live-streamed]

Sunday, December 20th – Orthros, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy,* 10 a.m. [Live-streamed]

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

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

The Great (“Royal”) Hours and Typika, 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon [Live-streamed]
The Ninth Royal Hour, 3 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great* – 3:30 p.m.
[Live-streamed]

Friday, December 25th (Christmas Day)
Orthros and the Christmas Canon, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy,* 10 a.m. [Live-streamed]
[There is **no** fasting from December 25th to January 4th]

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

Thursday, December 31st (New Year’s Eve) – Great Vespers, 5 p.m. [Live-streamed]
with prayers for the New Year

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

**The Sunday after the Holy Nativity; Commemorating: Joseph the Betrothed,
David the Prophet and James, “Brother of the Lord” and the Protomartyr Stephen**

Saturday, December 26th – Great Vespers, 5 p.m. [Live-streamed]
Sunday, December 27 - Orthros, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m. [Live-streamed]

THE GREAT FEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY)

Tuesday, January 5th - The Eve (*Paramon*)
The Great and Royal Hours, 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. [Live-streamed]
The Ninth Royal Hour, 3 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great* – 3:30 p.m.
[Live-streamed]

Wednesday, January 6th — Festal Orthros, 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by
The Festal Divine Liturgy* and the Great Blessing of the Waters [Live-streamed]

** Services with Holy Communion*

PASTORAL SERMON
The Ninth Sunday of Luke
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
November 22, 2020

Upon hearing today's Gospel lesson, you and I should ask ourselves: "How much is enough?" What do I need in order to live a life in such a way that I am not hoarding my possessions?

We all have responsibilities that include: a) providing for our family; which may include avoiding debt; doing everything we can to ensure that our children are educated; preparing for the needs of our retirement and concerns for our medical expenses. All of these responsibilities come with much uncertainty. They can, at the same time be excuses for not sharing with others, especially those with great needs. Some of us, especially if we are blessed with good fortune, consider every possible way of avoiding taxes; we carefully plan our deductions, consider ways to multiply our income with wise investments. The point is: so much of our financial planning is without certainty. We worry about tomorrow, but we know that our Lord teaches us that we should not; yet our lives are seem largely dependent upon what resources we have.

So then we must ask: What does this morning's Gospel say to us? Let us also review what else He has said on the subject. It is interesting to note that one-third of our Lord's teaching has a direct bearing upon what we do (or don't do) with our resources:

1. [Matthew 6:25ff] *...do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (v. 33) But seek first [the Kingdom of God] and His righteousness...*
2. [Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34] *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

For the past two Sundays we have heard lessons that have focused our attention upon doing good works. Specifically, we have been reminded that our rich heritage in Christ, who is Himself, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, calls us to be

merciful. Moreover, we have been learning that “being merciful” should be the motivation of “making sacrifices.”

Our Christian Tradition (in both the East and West) has observed a fast during the Season of Advent. We keep a fast in preparation for the Great Feast of our Lord’s coming. However, unlike Great Lent, this period of forty days has, over the years, tended to place greater emphasis upon the practice of doing good works. The whole legend of Santa Claus, for example, based upon the real person of St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker, who is commemorated on December 6th, and is commonly depicted as a kind and charitable saint, who was a doer of good deeds, especially to the poor. Yet, without minimizing the discipline of fasting and prayer practiced during the season, fasting, we should understand, does not exclusively mean abstinence from foods. Fasting can also, and very possibly mean, the abstinence of the many other things that we have found ourselves “consuming:” **things** that we may have become possessive of, or very possibly attached to; even behavior that we have found ourselves compelled to do. The foolish rich man spoken of in today’s Gospel is a good example. **He lacks an understanding of God as his Source and selfishly hoarded his goods.**

St. Gregory the Great addresses the fast in this way: “...let no one believe that fasting alone is sufficient; for the Lord tells us by the mouth of the prophet, ‘The kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free.’ And then he continues, ‘Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives (Isaiah 58:6, 7). The Lord therefore blesses the fast that uplifts our hands in almsgiving before His eyes, which is joined to the love of our neighbor, and founded on compassion.”

We live in a land that has prided itself upon freedoms that have provided each of us with countless opportunities for our every ambition. If either by working hard, such as our parents or grandparents did, some of whom were immigrants, or if it was our good fortune to become the inheritors of all that they achieved to make our life much easier, **our standard of living is largely spoken of in terms of our possessions.** And so the very words of our Lord Jesus Christ in the verse preceding today’s lesson could not be more alarming: “*Watch out!*” He said, “*Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses*” (verse 15). The Lord then proceeds to present us with a parable that describes a successful man who defines his life in terms of what he possesses, and further, considers the purpose of his life in this world solely in terms of being a consumer. We hear the rich man in today’s

Gospel says to himself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry” (verse 19). These words are part of the writings of the Old Testament author of Ecclesiastes. They are the very words that are also found in the prophesy of Isaiah. However in Isaiah, the phrase ends with the words: “...for tomorrow we die” (Isaiah 22:13). It is not mentioned in the quote because the Gospel lesson draws the same conclusion: the rich man’s life ends with death.

Today’s lesson is also a good study into the mind of a person who hordes things. In commenting on the rich fool, St. Basil says: *His heart is tormented, devoured with anxiety. For what [others might rejoice in] brings pain to the [greedy]. [The rich man is not happy that] his storehouses are stuffed full. The overflowing riches which his storehouses are unable to hold are a torment to his soul, lest perhaps the overflow should bring some of their blessing to those in want!* The man in the parable is truly selfish, according to Basil.

Our Lord’s concludes the lesson of the parable with the warning: that possessing the rich man’s attitude and his way of thinking is foolish. Why? Because it would be more proper for one’s goal in life to be focused upon becoming “rich towards God” – the Giver of every gift, the Provider and Source of all things.

In last week’s Gospel lesson we heard our Lord say, *I desire mercy not sacrifice (Matthew 9:10)*. The man in today’s parable was neither merciful nor sacrificial. He considered his life blessed by having the ability to selfishly hoard his riches. He gave no thought to the fact that he would not be able to take any of his possessions with him to the grave. He was in fact, deluded in his thinking: perceiving himself rich, he was in fact very poor. Thinking of his wealth in terms of the abundance of his possessions, he gave no thought to what it meant to be “rich toward God”.

Prayer

O Christ our God, have mercy upon us sinners. O Holy Virgin, Mother of God, beneath your compassion we take refuge, despise not our prayer in our spiritual poverty, but by your intercessions, deliver us from all manner of greed, jealousy, pride and envy. O Holy Spirit of God, purify our hearts set aright our minds, and sanctify our souls that we may be found faithful stewards of all that has been entrusted to our care. Establish us in your will; grant that we may remain steadfast in our commitment and earnest in our desire to be rich towards God. For Thou art He who is a ready help to us in our time of need, and to Thee do we ascribe glory, together with the Father who is unoriginate, and our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ; for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. A-men.

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THE NINTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS
APOSTLES PHILEMON, APPHIA, ARCHIPPUS AND ONESIMOS OF THE SEVENTY; CLEMENT,
BISHOP OF OCHRID AND ENLIGHTENER OF BULGARIA; MARTYR CECILIA OF ROME AND THOSE
WITH HER; VENERABLE KALLISTOS XANTHOPOULOS OF ATHOS;
MARTYR MICHAEL, PRINCE OF TVER; VENERABLE IAKOVOS OF EVIA

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن السابع

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

اليوم العذراء التي هي مُقدّمة مسرّة الله، وابتداء الكرازة بخلاص البشر، قد ظهرت في
هيكل الله علانية، وسبقت مبشرة الجميع بالمسيح. فلننهتف نحوها بصوت عظيم قائلين:
إفرحي يا كمال تدبير الخالق.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسل إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتى أنكم
بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظل أجنحة مجدكم غير الهولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجاثين
والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوات العلوية.

اليوم الهيكل الذي للمخلص، الكلي النقاء، العذراء الخدر ذو النمن الجزيل، وهي الكنز
الطاهر لجسد الإله، إذ تدخل بيت الرب، تدخل نعمة الروح الإلهي معها. فلنسبحها ملائكة
الله، لأنها المظلة السماوية.

الرسالة

الرَّبُّ يُعْطِي قُوَّةً لِشَعْبِهِ.
قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أْفَسُسَ.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، إِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ هُوَ سَلَامُنَا، هُوَ جَعَلَ الْإِثْنَيْنِ وَاحِدًا، وَنَقَضَ فِي جَسَدِهِ حَائِطَ السِّيَاحِ الْحَاجِزِ، أَيَّ الْعَدَاوَةِ* وَأَبْطَلَ نَامُوسَ الْوَصَايَا فِي فَرَائِضِهِ، لِيَخْلُقَ الْإِثْنَيْنِ فِي نَفْسِهِ إِنْسَانًا وَاحِدًا جَدِيدًا بِإِجْرَائِهِ السَّلَامِ* وَيُصَالِحَ كِلَيْهِمَا فِي جَسَدٍ وَاحِدٍ مَعَ اللَّهِ فِي الصَّلِيبِ، بِقَتْلِهِ الْعَدَاوَةَ فِي نَفْسِهِ* فَجَاءَ وَبَشَّرَكُمْ بِالسَّلَامِ، الْبَعِيدِينَ مِنْكُمْ وَالْقَرِيبِينَ* لِأَنَّ بِهِ لَنَا كَلِمَةَ التَّوَصُّلِ إِلَى الْآبِ فِي رُوحٍ وَاحِدٍ* فَلَسْتُمْ غُرَبَاءَ بَعْدَ وَنْزَلَاءَ، بَلْ مُوَاطِنِي الْقَدِيسِينَ وَأَهْلَ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ* وَقَدْ بُنِيتُمْ عَلَى أَسَاسِ الرُّسُلِ، وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَحَجَرِ الزَّائِيَةِ هُوَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ نَفْسُهُ* الَّذِي بِهِ يُنْسَقُ الْبُنْيَانُ كُلُّهُ، فَيَنْمُو هَيْكَلًا مُقَدَّسًا فِي الرَّبِّ* وَفِيهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا تُبْنُونَ مَعًا مَسْكَنًا لِلَّهِ فِي الرُّوحِ.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا

قال الربّ هذا المثل: رجلٌ غنيٌ أخصبت أرضه، ففكّر في نفسه قائلاً: ليس لي مكانٌ أُخزّن فيه غلالِي، فماذا أعمل؟ ثم قال: أعملُ هذا: أهدمُ مخازني وابني أكبرَ منها، فأجمع فيها كلَّ غلالِي وخيراتِي. وأقولُ لنفسي: يا نفسُ، لكِ خيراتٌ كثيرةٌ تكفيك سنينَ كثيرةٍ، فاستريحِي وكلي واشربي وتنعمي! فقال له الله: يا غبي، في هذه الليلة تُطلبُ نفسك منك. فهذا الذي أعددتَه لمن يكون؟ هكذا يكون مصيرُ من يَدخِرُ لنفسِهِ، ولا يغني بالله، ولَمَّا قال هذا نادى: من كان له أذنان تسمعان فليسمع!

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا تقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذي يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً في الكنيسة الارثوذكسية