

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

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# **The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven** and the Seventh Sunday of Luke

**Sunday, November 8, 2020**

**Tone 5; Eothinon 11**

## **Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 5)**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

## **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 of the Theotokos (Tone 4)**

[in anticipation of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos - November 21st]

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 Archangels)

*He makes His angels spirits, and His ministers flames of fire.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

**The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews  
(2:2-10)**

Brethren, if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His own Will. For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the Son of man, that Thou carest for Him? Thou didst make Him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned Him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under His feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to Him, He left nothing outside His control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to Him. But we see Jesus, Who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the Pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

THE GOSPEL (for the Seventh Sunday of Luke)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (8:41-56)**

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed round Him. And a woman, who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had spent all her living upon physicians, and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him, and touched the fringe of His garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround Thee and press upon Thee! And Thou sayest, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Someone touched Me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from Me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before Him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. And Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith

has made you well; go in peace.” While Jesus was still speaking, a man from the ruler’s house came and said, “Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more.” But Jesus on hearing this answered him, “Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well.” And when Jesus came to the house, He permitted no one to enter with Him, except Peter and James and John, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but Jesus said, “Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand Jesus called, saying, “Child, arise.” And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and Jesus directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

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## **The Synaxarion**

On November 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Synaxis of the Supreme Commanders Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, and of the other bodiless and heavenly orders, the Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels and Angels.

### **Verses**

Fain a fitting song would I fitly sing thee,  
but a song immaterial I have not, O Michael.  
Seeing thee, the great Angel of joy, O Gabriel,  
I greatly rejoice, and fly upon wings of longing.  
Sent from on high as a minister of mercies,  
Raphael comforteth all them that invoke thee.

The eighth honoreth the Princes of the celestial orders.

Dionysius the Areopagite, a disciple of the Apostle Paul who was taken up into the third heaven (II Cor. 12:2), described the nine orders of angels in his book, *On the Celestial Hierarchies*. The Apostle Paul says all angels are ministering spirits to them who shall be heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14). The Archangel Michael leads the angelic hosts. When Satan fell away from God and drew a third of the angels with him to destruction, Michael stood up and cried out before the faithful angels: “Let us stand aright! Let us stand with fear! Let us attend!” and all of the

faithful angelic heavenly hosts cried out: “Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!” The Archangel Gabriel proclaimed the news of the conceptions of John the Baptist and our Lord Jesus Christ to their mothers, Elizabeth and the Ever-virgin Mary (Luke 1). The Archangel Raphael healed Tobit of his blindness (Tobit 11) and freed his daughter-in-law, Sarah, from a demon (Tobit 6). Every nation and Christian has a guardian angel. We must always remember that whatever we do, in open or in secret, we do in the presence of our guardian angel.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

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## **OFFERINGS**

Holy Bread is being offered by the Mitchell family with prayers for Michael Mitchell celebrating his Feast Day, with prayers for every member of his family. May God grant him many years!

Holy Bread is being offered by Marcia O’Dea, the O’Dea and Chala families, asking our Lord to continue to always protect, guide and bless Sean O’Dea, who celebrated his birthday (November 6); also for the continued blessings of their nephew and cousin Richard Chala, celebrating his birthday (November 11). May God grant them many years!

The five-loaves (*Artoclasia/Ighribniyyah*) of the Feast was being offered by Father Minas, Presbyter Nicole and Mary Sarchizian with gratitude to our St. Michael Church community, especially those who celebrate their name’s day. May St. Michael intercede for us all and help all to become Christlike, that we may glorify God with one voice. Amin!

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

for the repose of the newly-departed Metropolitan MAXIMOS (Aghiorgoussis) of thrice-blessed memory; the retired bishop of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh. Memory eternal.

for the speedy recovery of Ramez Hage.

by Father Timothy remembering his son, Michael o' Kalani Baclig on his Feast Day. May the Holy Archangel protect him from all harm.

for recovery and well being of Marie Skaff, recently hospitalized.

by Alan & Debbie Abraham for the continued health of Charmaine Darmour and her mother, Ramona Darmour, for safe travels; also on the occasion of Charmaine's birthday (October 27) and retirement this month. May God grant them many years!

lovingly offered by Mae Tortolano and family for the happiness and well-being of brother Emile Skaff on the occasion of his 86th birthday (November 6th) Koul sinni wa inta salim.

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost and the 8th Sunday of Luke**

Great Vespers, Saturday, November 14, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 15 - Orthros, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 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](http://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. Questions will also be answered by Father Timothy by e-mail at: [frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto: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](mailto:lcoudsy@aol.com) to be enrolled and to receive our weekly links for each age group.

### Zoom Meeting Bible Study

**Bible Study with Father Timothy** — will resume on Tuesday, November 17th at 7 p.m. **Use the link and security password provided in the weekly parish e-mail. [Note: Father will be on vacation this week]**

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).

### Adult Zoom Meeting: “The Relationship Project”

Join Father Timothy when his adult classes will resume on Thursday, November 19th at 6:30 p.m. in a one-hour Zoom meeting on “The Relationship Project” produced by *Faithtree Resources*. Discover the struggles of young people and how we can best relate to their anxieties and challenges. The three-part program aims to build the primary relationships of a young person: with parents, priest, people of faith and friends. This curriculum was written by a team of Orthodox theologians, pastor-teachers, therapists, and youth workers, blessed by His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH. You can participate by logging on to the Zoom links provided on the week of November 19 in a parish e-mail.

### 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 17th, at 7 p.m. Each study is limited to one hour. **The topic of the sixth of a series on The Book of Revelation is: Its Understanding and Use in the Orthodox Church.** For recorded sessions or study guides, e-mail Father Timothy at: <frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org>.

### **Parish Council Nominations Special Parish Meeting**

Next Sunday, November 15, 2020 we will be holding a brief Virtual Special Meeting of the Voting Membership solely for the purpose of receiving and accepting nominations for Parish Council members to be elected for there (3), three-year terms (January, 2020 to December, 2022). At this meeting the Nominations Committee will present their report and additional nominations will be open from the floor. It is important that persons being considered be able to fulfill the commitment to serve. Therefore it is necessary that all nominees first be personally asked if they would accept nomination, and second be approved by the Pastor as someone who is qualified. The Parish Constitution prescribes that all nominees must be at least twenty-five years of age or older, have been a pledging members of the parish for at least one year and have fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Faith [Article VI, Sec. 2]. The nominees must also be committed in attending monthly Parish Council meetings held on the third (3rd) Sunday of each month. We sincerely thank Joe Ayoub [ending his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]; Adam Lamar [ending his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]; and Deacon Andrew Monsue [completing his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]. Our one-year appointed members whose terms are expiring are: Julie Bitar [second year appointed], and Michael Mitchell [first year appointed]. The Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: November 22 and 29. Council members whose terms are unexpired are: Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla, Regan Hines, John Khouri, Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Dan Raju, and Kris Thabit. Charmaine Darmour is also completing her tenth (10th) consecutive year as President of the Antiochian Women. All interested in serving on the Parish Council should contact: Connie Barilla, Nominations Chair at: cmatthews46@yahoo.com



## **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](mailto:ronaldzraick@gmail.com)> or Father Timothy at: <[frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)>.

## **Upcoming Events**

Special Virtual Meeting of the Voting Membership, Sunday, November 15

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 15 - open  
Nov 22 - open  
Nov 29 - open  
Dec 06 (St. Nicholas) - open

**Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar**

Note: There are no Coffee  
Hours scheduled

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; [pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto: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](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)



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**St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church  
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16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622  
Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and all North America

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

**PASTORAL SERMON**  
**The Seventh Sunday of Luke**  
**By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig**  
**November 8, 2020**

Each of us not only personal material needs, but physical, emotional and spiritual needs. We will soon begin preparing for the Feast of the Birth of our Lord when the church prescribes forty days of abstinence, prayer and good works. She does this for a reason. It would help us to understand that if we are to do what God asks of us in helping others, our doing so is not based upon the abundance of things that we have or whether or not we have something to offer others. The church's call and discipline to pray, fast and do good works during advent is based upon our own spiritual needs.

Even though we are blessed with much to be thankful for materially, each of us have personal physical, emotional and spiritual needs. This is the subject that our Thursday evening adult class. God created us as whole persons. Good mental health is attending to our inner life. That inner life is intricately linked to our physical and mental health. We easily become fragmented as persons in our day. When we need physical care—we go to the doctor. When we need psychological care—we seek a counselor or therapist. Then, when we need to build a relationship with God—we go to church.

Moreover, for some, physical needs might be also be visible, especially if we are sick or have a disability, for others a conversation or facial expression might reveal an emotional need. But deep down inside of each of us are things we may not even speak about, or might have a very difficult time putting into words. That is what pertains to our “inner life” that defines our spiritual needs.

The daughter of Jarius in spoken of in today's Gospel lesson was an only child, 12 years of age, and dying. The woman with the hemorrhage

who, in a crowd of people, touched the hem of Jesus' garment was desperate for healing. The needs of the woman and the daughter of Jarius were obviously physical. In both cases, their condition personally affected their emotional and spiritual life along with the lives of their loved ones and who knew them.

If a person's physical health is serious, especially if it becomes a major drain to one's resources and severely affects the lives of the members of their family, it is not uncommon for life to be largely defined by their physical condition; it dominates a personal conversation. Today, persons are often seen and identified not for who they truly are: men, women and children created in the image of God, but for what they may physically become: sick, unemployed, an addict, or perhaps: frail, strong, or attractive.

God, however, sees and knows us as persons. He loves us equally as His children as you and I would our own son or daughter. His supreme sacrifice for us was for that very reason: We are His own, called to be the inheritors of all that He has desired for us; regardless of whether we are old, young, rich, poor, healthy, or sick. We are all His children, created in His image to become the full inheritors as members of His Kingdom.

We are known, loved, saved and redeemed by a God of love who came to save and heal us from every infirmity, but who also calls to be loving, His co-workers, His helpers and ministers and His fellow servants.

### **Prayer**

O Christ, our God, the giver of every good and perfect gift: grant that we may in fear and love draw near to Thee and receive the much needed healing from all of our infirmities. Forgive us our sins and strengthen us for Thy service that we may glorify Thee in every word and deed; for Thou art the God of love and of mercy and unto Thee do we ascribe glory together with Thy Father who is from everlasting, and Thy life-giving Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages. A-men.