

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 Tamoush.Richard@gmail.com

Subdeacon Magued Wassef wassefm@msn.com

Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Pastoral Assistant rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.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@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 Tamoush.Richard@gmail.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

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra and the Tenth Sunday of Luke

Nicholas, bishop of Patara; New-martyr Nicholas of Karamania in Asia Minor

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Tone 1; Eothinon 4

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

Apolytikion for St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (Tone 4)

Thy works of justice did reveal thee to thy community as a canon of faith, the likeness of humility and the teacher of abstinence, O thou Father and great Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by thy meekness wealth. Intercede, therefore, intercede with Christ that He will save our souls.

Apolytikion for our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: Deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the highest powers.

Kontakion for the Preparation of Christ's Nativity (Tone 3)

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for St. Nicholas)

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.
What shall I render to the Lord for all that He has given me?*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews
(13:17-21)**

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL (for the Tenth Sunday of Luke)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke
(13:10-17)**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

The Synaxarion

On December 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate our Father among the Saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

Verses

Nicholas, who while on earth, was a great intercessor,
Though he hath left the earth, still fervently intercedeth.

On the sixth his life's end appeared to Nicholas.

His eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, returned their gift of an only child to God by dedicating Nicholas to Him. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord: Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth (Matthew 6:3). When he gave himself over to solitude and silence, a voice from on high came to him: "Nicholas, for your ascetic labor, work among the people, if thou desirest to be crowned by Me." By God's wondrous providence, he was chosen archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. He was cast in and out of prison, he defended the true nature of Christ in the First Ecumenical Council, and he even saved men from unjust death sentences. Nicholas entered into eternal rest on December 6, 343.

On this day, we also commemorate our father among the saints Nicholas, bishop of Patara, the uncle of the Wonderworker; and New-martyr Nicholas of Karamania in Asia Minor. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is also being offered by the Meena, Abraham, and Gascou families for the three-year memorial and in loving memory of Lillian Meena (+6 December, 2017), beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Blessed be the memory of our beloved Lillian, worthy of blessedness and eternal memory.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Mimi & Nick Hallak, the Azzam and Hallak families in loving memory of their beloved mother and grandmother, Claire Azzam (+12 December, 2017), and brother Bassem Azzam (+30 November, 2018). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered by Fred, Tanya, Alek and Elisa Milkie with prayers for the good health of Dominick Milkie, Darron Rishwain, Nick Nicola, Mark Nicola, Nicholas Aparicio, the Nicola family and all those celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas. May God grant them many years!

Prayers are also being offered by the Milkie family in loving memory of Nick & Helen Nicola, Joe & Rose Rishwain, Carl & Emma Milkie, Mike & Afifi Chammas, Nassima and Baby Leila Milkie. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Suzan Haddad and family for the forty-day memorial of her beloved father, Issa Zoukhi (+28 October, 2020). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread was offered last Sunday, November 29, by the Azzam and Sabbah family in loving memory of their beloved father and grandfather, Bassem Azzam's two-year memorial (+30 November, 2018). Memory eternal.

The five loaves for the Feast of St. Nicholas were offered for all who celebrate their feast day and bear the name of their patron: Nicholas the Wonderworker. May God grant them many years!

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

for the repose of Khouriye Ruth Meena (+1 December, 2020) of Parma, Ohio; beloved cousin and aunt of Ramona and Charmaine Darmour.
Memory eternal.

for the good health of Aaden Gruetzmaeher, grandson of
Deacon Andrew and Bobbi Monsue, and members of their family

for the newborn child, Emiliano Tamoush (7.2 lbs., 22.44”), born to
Angela & Ryan Tamoush in Panama

for Art Danks, Choir Director, our singers, chanters and readers
as we honor the offering of their skill and talent to our services

for the one-year memorial of Eugene Ferns (+6 December, 2020), loved father of Christine Ferns Panga. Memory eternal

Included in our prayers throughout the month of December are those celebrating their birthday: James Michael Baclig (12/1), Nicholas John Malouf (12/1), Anne and Marina Coury (12/2), Thomas Anthony Zraick (12/03), Alexander Worotko (12/4), Noah Michael Ajalat (12/5), Michael Mas (12/5), Marcia O'Dea (12/7), George John Khouri III (12/8), Stephanie Slatko (12/8), Jill Zraick Phipps (12/9), Amira Boutari (12/11), Ibrahim Wassef (12/11), Colin Michael Phipps (12/12), Nicole Mansur (12/15), Katelyn Matarese (12/15), Odette George (12/16), Thomas Mulry (12/16), Yuriko Yanni (12/16), Daniel Barney (12/17), Jonas Farr (12/17), Rana Azzam (12/18), Daphne Thabet (12/19), George Saade (12/20), John Tambouras (12/20), Afath Khleif (12/22), Linda Khouri (12/22), Mark Nassief (12/22), Evelyn Hannah (12/23), Christine Nasr (12/23), James Thomas (12/23), Logan Gary David Obenhaus (12/24), Teddy Hage (12/26), Ned Toomey (12/26), Hanna Harb (12/28), Michelle Ann Abdennour (12/30), Gabriella Lewin (12/31); also who celebrate their wedding anniversary: Ron & Kathy Zraick (12/17), Rami & Yuriko Yanni (12/28). May God grant them many years!

Included in our prayers for the departed in the month of December are:

Elia Habib, +9 Dec. 1959	Margaret Nassief, +1 Dec., 2007
Francis Boyer, Dec., 1960	Tamam Mitchell, +16 Dec., 2007
Nicole Saadeh, +31 Dec.	Bahat Bicker, +8 Dec. 2008
Antone Saadeh, +21 Dec.	Bradley Abraham, +8 Dec. 2010
Charles Malouf +20 Dec., 1973	Mary Wassef, +7 Dec., 2011
Albert Elias Gillet, +6 Dec., 1978	Rodney Khalil, +10 Dec. 2011
Mary Anne Mansur, +19 Dec., 1979	Nicholas Soffa, +9 Dec. 2012
Woldemichael Kidane +12 Dec. 1982	Yvonne Tibshraeny, +11 Dec. 2012
Saliba Kassis, +30 Dec., 1987	Angel Kheir, +12 Dec., 2012
Michael G. Hayek, +2 Dec., 1990	Issa Gazie Ababseh, +6 Dec. 2013
Katherine Zaki, +1 Dec., 1993	Alsace George, +22 Dec., 2013
George S. Nasser, +24 Dec., 1993	Gloria Nassif, +04 Dec. 2014
Faraj Azzam, +20 Dec., 1994	Edward Chaffin Sr., +19 Dec. 2014
Marie Abdou, +10 Dec., 1995	Fred Safady, +24 Dec. 2014
Anton Abdelahad, +25 Dec., 1995	Blanche Barghash, +29 Dec. 2014

Grace Haggard, +30 Dec., 1995	Laila El-Darzi, +8 Dec., 2015
Nicholas Satel, +28 Dec., 1997	Mike Glissen, +15 Dec., 2015
Alice Meena, +10 Dec., 1999	Mona Latif, +17 Dec., 2015
Wydea Haddad, +26 Dec., 1999	Philip G. Deeb, Sr., +1 Dec. 2016
John Black, +1 Dec., 1999	Tommy Schmidt, +15 Dec., 2016
Haradu Woldetattious, +2 Dec., 2002	Claudine Lakah +25 Dec., 2016
Charles Homsy, +2 Dec. 2002	Mary Vogel +30 Dec., 2016
V. Rev. John Reinhold, +9 Dec. 2003	William Christopher +31 Dec. 2016
Annette Mittry, +26 Dec. 2003	Lillian B. Meena, +6 Dec. 2017
Minnie Abdun-Nur, +23 Dec. 2004	James T. Peck, +10 Dec. 2017
Mike Sarchizian, +6 Dec. 2006	Claire Azzam, +12 Dec. 2017
Ileen M. Shaheen, +21 Dec. 2006	Gladys Najjar, +12 Dec. 2017
Shehadeh Moujaes, +22 Dec., 2006	Colette Daccache, +1 Dec., 2019
Hani Sweis, +26 Dec., 2006	Eugene Ferns, +6 Dec., 2019
	Emile Bitar, +19 Dec., 2019

Memory Eternal!

Please phone the Church Office if there are any omissions or corrections to the above listing of names and dates. Please bear in mind that some have chosen not to be included in our announcement. Please pardon any errors. Thank you for your understanding.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

We are within the period of the Nativity Fast

[Note: The **Fast of the Holy Nativity** is divided into two periods: 1) November 15 through December 19, the traditional fasting discipline is observed (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil), except on Tuesdays and Thursdays when wine and oil are permitted, and on Saturdays and Sundays when fish, wine and oil are allowed. It should be noted that some allow for fish on all days except Wednesdays and Fridays from November 15 to December 18; 2) December 20 through 24, traditional fasting is observed on all days except on Saturday and Sunday when wine and oil are permitted.]

The Feast of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker – December 12th

Commemorating the Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria

The Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

Saturday, December 14th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 15th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December is “St. Ignatius Month” in the Antiochian Archdiocese

Members of the Order of St. Ignatius are assisting in the services this month. Reading the epistle this morning is: Joe Ayoub.

Parish Council Virtual December Meeting – To be announced

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 and Guidance for COVID-19 Testing

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 you should be tested and self-quarantine at home for seven (7) to ten (10) days, especially if you have no symptoms. Should your results show that you are “negative” but develop symptoms during your quarantine, you should be retested. Questions will be answered by Father Timothy by e-mail at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Zoom Meeting Bible Study

Bible Study with Father Timothy — will continue on Tuesday, December 8th 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>.

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. However, there are no Zoom sessions on Sunday, December 27.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael:

Our Parish Council Election concluded at midnight on Sunday, November 29 and three (3) members were elected to serve a three-year term (2021-2023). The are (in alphabetical order): **Joe Ayoub, Julie Bitar** and **Deacon Andrew Monsue.**

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 our lay leadership wisdom in preparing for the coming year.

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
Pastor

Christmas Parish Family Video Planned

As we look forward to Nativity of Christ, this year 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 Questions? Phone Richard at:
818-800-2418. 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 today, Sunday, December 6th, and all toys should be at the church, and placed under the Christmas tree by next Sunday, December 13th. All toys and clothing will be distributed with the assistance of our parish of the Holy Cross in Palmdale.

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, December 8th, at 7 p.m. Each study is limited to one hour. **The topic of the eighth of a series on The Book of Revelation is: "Is 'Hell' an Eternal Existence?"** For recorded sessions or study guides, e-mail Father Timothy at: <frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org>.

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Dec 13 - Ron & Kathy Zraick
Dec 20 - Ron & Kathy Zraick
Dec 24-25 (Christmas) - 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.

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 Narthex by 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 on Sunday, December 20, 2020 when the drawing will take place following the morning Liturgy. Proceeds from the raffle will help Teen SOYO sponsor the Special Olympics at the Antiochian Village and our parish youth program. We thank everyone for their continued support of our youth program.

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

FELLOWSHIP OF
ANTIOCHIAN MEN

DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES & THE WEST

With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph

THE CHRISTIAN MAN & CHRISTIAN SUFFERING

Dn. Vasily Hinkle

DEC 1, 2020
@6:30PM PST

FACEBOOK LIVE

[FACEBOOK.COM/DLAWANTIOCHIANMEN](https://www.facebook.com/DLAWANTIOCHIANMEN)

Personal Tours of Our New Church Sanctuary

Personal tours or Zoom meetings 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

Bookstore Christmas Gifts

Contact our Bookstore Manager, Bobbie Monsue at: bobbi_monsue@att.net or phone her at: 805-522-1463 with your questions for suggestions or requests for Christmas gifts. Shipping or pick-up is available by request.

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 King, James, “The 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. Vespereal 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*

**Pastor's Sermon
The Tenth Sunday of Luke**

by V. Rev. Timothy Baclig

December 6, 2020

The setting of the miracle of the woman spoken of in today's Gospel lesson is at a synagogue where the Lord was teaching. The love of God and His great mercy is the main point of the Gospel lesson. It is the good news of this season as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of His Birth.

The Lord repeatedly called the people to repentance from the practice of a religion that fails to practice and demonstrate mercy. Every Lenten season, our lessons point to the heart of what it means to be non-hypocritical. He rebukes those who claim to know the Law as being ignorant of the very thing in which they were expected to be more

“You hypocrites,” He says, “Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

The ruler of the synagogue condemned the Lord for healing on the Sabbath. For him religion consisted of the observance of laws that could not be set aside even for the sake of mercy. The ruler’s reaction to the healing of the woman who “had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years” illustrates how radically misunderstood and misused the Law had become among those whom God had so favored and of whom he expected so much.

You may recall from one of the readings of the twelve Gospels (Matthew 23:13-39) on Great and Holy Thursday the words of our Lord: “Woe to you teachers of the Law, Sadducees, Pharisees hypocrites”... You brood of vipers...” ...[loving] the praise of men more than the praise from God...”

In today’s lesson the Lord heals the woman by His word—“Woman, you are set free from your infirmity”—and then by His touch: “He put His hands on her; and immediately she was straightened up and praised God” (vs.12-13). The miracle is remarkable for two reasons: First, the woman was not seeking to be healed and no one spoke on her behalf. Second, the Lord demonstrates that He is the incarnate God by the simple declaration that she was healed.

The rejection of Christ as the incarnate God by the Jews is matched by the heretics who claim that the eternal God could not possibly humble Himself and condescend to take on our nature. In the case of the heretics, they can only understand Christ to be a created being. To this point, **St. Gregory of Nazianzus says, “Do you conceive of Him as less... because he humbles Himself for the sake of the [woman who] is bent down to the ground, that He may exalt with Himself that which is bent double under the weight of sin?”**

Our Lord was never threatened by anyone or any circumstance. Nor was he controlled by any person or any situation. He did not need to prove who He was; nor did He need to demonstrate anything to justify Lordship. It was not His aim or purpose in His coming. If we miss this point, that we will never know the depth of meaning which is revealed in the upcoming Feast of His incarnation (called: “The Great Dispensation”) In the ninth ode of the Christmas Canon we hear: “I behold a mystery, great and most wonderful; heaven is the cave, the cherubic throne, the Virgin; the manger, the place

where Christ lay: the uncontainable God who we magnify in song.” For some of us: this way of being humble is something we learn by being crushed, humiliated or by being broken. This was for our Lord something that He not only understood, but something He chose and demonstrated before His crucifixion by His every word and deed.

Every crisis in our life can do one of two things: It can lead us closer to God by way of the Cross, or it can alienate us from God and cause us to reject His call to holiness. The lesson therefore is clear: There are the more weighty matters of the Law that we cannot ignore. The practice of true religion is not neglecting what is obvious: namely, God’s love, mercy and compassion which fulfill the Law.

Many of us, as creatures of habit, dislike disruptions to our routine or what we are familiar with or accustomed to. When you and I are most comfortable with things being done a certain way, change can be very difficult. We lose our orientation, and being disoriented can be devastating to our pride. Meaning can be lost as we define what is meant in terms of what we do with no thought to why we are doing it. Today’s lesson forces us to recognize that we can be misguided and lose sight of what really matters—as far as God is concerned.

As we begin our countdown to Christmas, may we not lose sight of the reason for the season: God’s coming in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ was not an apparition. We are preparing to celebrate the full revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ who became Man. He took on human flesh and assumed our entire nature, except for sin; but for the purpose of bearing the sin of the world. He came to renew and restore all that was lost with Adam. And as the New Adam He fulfills the Law and is our righteousness.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and all North America

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor
ftimothy@stmichaelvanuys.com

Church Telephone: 818/994-2313
www.stmichaelvanuys.com

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things,
at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

(II Corinthians 9:8)

Dear Members of St. Michael,

We are soon approaching the end of the calendar year and our Parish Council is preparing to provide us with our 2021 Annual Budget. A parish cannot solely rely upon the income of Sacramental offerings because we would not be able to meet our month-to-month expenses based upon anticipating baptisms, weddings, or funerals that takes place each year. Nor can we adequately pay for our ongoing property maintenance without the shared responsibility and the help of volunteers of our membership. Our parish is able to provide its clergy and facilities, the prayer services of the church and its Sacraments because of our faithful parishioners who help to financially support the salaries and the operational costs of our church property.

We are again asking everyone to prayerfully consider making a reasonable annual financial pledge to our parish for the New Year. We look forward, by God's grace, for continued growth in the future. We are also very grateful for the commitments of those who have provided us with contributions to complete the construction of our new church sanctuary. We encourage others who have not done so to prayerfully consider doing the same. One of our goals is to remain debt free. We are anticipating the completion of the church in the New Year. Additional information will be provided at our Annual Parish Meeting at the end of January.

May you and your family enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving holiday with God's continued blessings as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of our Lord's birth.

In Christ,

Subdeacon Richard Tamoush

Stewardship Chair

Frequently Asked Questions When Completing a Pledge Form

What is the reason for completing an annual parish Pledge Form?

Each year planning for budgeted receipts and expenditures are an important part of being responsible stewards of Christ's church. Some of our month-to-month expenses include: priest and staff salaries, utility and maintenance expenses, the payment of taxes on all investment (income) property (yes, churches do pay property taxes), and insurance. Moreover, it is not uncommon for these expenses increase each year. It is a goal of our Parish Council to meet these expenses with the contributions of our members. The Pastor does not receive stipends (monetary gifts) for house blessings, baptisms, weddings and funerals if a family

is not enrolled as a regular contributor of the parish. The Pastor's living expenses and allowances are included the Annual Budget of the parish that will be presented at our Annual Meeting on January 31st.

What is an annual "Fair Share Commitment?"

Each parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese pays 10% of its parish income to assist with the expenses of our bishops, Archdiocesan and Diocesan departments and programs. Over one-fourth of the Archdiocese budget is dedicated to youth programs. You can see two charts that provide the financial highlights of Archdiocese receipts and expenditures provided in our Annual Report booklet. The annual payment to the Archdiocese from St. Michael Church is currently: \$25,190 or 10% of our parish income (excluding contributions received for the Building Fund, charity collections, special Archdiocese collections, and memorial gifts). This money is collected from our parishioners from their first contribution to the church: \$50 for each adult and \$35 for each child (17 years of age or under) in a household. All additional funds pledged by our parishioners assist with the month-to-month expenses of the parish.

Our 2021 Pledge Form is provided in our church narthex and available on our parish website.

The form may be completed and returned to the Church Office at: 16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys; California; 91406; or turned in on Sunday to Mary Ann Coury, Comptroller.

EOTHINON 4

الايوثينا 4

-tone 1

الحن 1

**NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA
AND THE TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

NICHOLAS, BISHOP OF PATARA;
NEW-MARTYR NICHOLAS OF KARAMANIA IN ASIA MINOR

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الأول

إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا خُتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، وَجَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ حُفِظَ مِنَ الْجَنْدِ، قُمْتَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ أَيُّهَا
الْمَخْلُصُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الْحَيَاةَ. فَلِذَلِكَ قَوَاتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ هَتَفُوا إِلَيْكَ يَا وَاهِبَ الْحَيَاةِ: الْمَجْدُ
لِقِيَامَتِكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ، الْمَجْدُ لِمَلِكِكَ، الْمَجْدُ لِنَدْبِيرِكَ يَا مُحَبَّ الْبَشَرِ وَحَدِّكَ.

لَقَدْ أَظْهَرْتَكَ أَعْمَالَ الْحَقِّ لِرِعِيَّتِكَ قَانُوناً لِلْإِيمَانِ، وَصُورَةً لِلوَدَاعَةِ، وَمُعَلِّماً لِلْإِمْسَاكِ،
أَيُّهَا الْأَبُ وَرَبِّيسُ الْكَهَنَةِ نِيقُولَاوسَ. فَلِذَلِكَ أَحْرَزْتَ بِالتَّوَاضُّعِ الرَّفْعَةَ، وَبِالْمَسْكَنَةِ
الْغِنَى. فَتَشَفَّعْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِيِّ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نَفُوسَنَا.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع
أَيُّهَا الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرَ الْمُسْتَحَقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَتَّكُم
بَطَلْبَاتِكُمْ تَكْتَنُوفُونَا بِظُلِّ أَجْنَحَةِ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الْهَيُولِيِّ، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِثِينَ
وَالصَّارِحِينَ بِغَيْرِ فَتُورٍ، أَنْقَدُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ، بِمَا أَتَّكُم رُؤَسَاءُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

قنداق تقدمة الميلاد على اللحن الثالث

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

الرسالة

كريم بين يدي الرب موت أبراره.

بماذا نكافئ الرب عن كل ما أعطانا؟

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى العبرانيين.

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَطِيعُوا مُدَبِّرِيكُمْ وَاحْضَعُوا لَهُمْ، فَإِنَّهُمْ يَسْهَرُونَ عَلَى نَفُوسِكُمْ سَهَرًا
مَنْ سَيُعْطِي حِسَابًا، حَتَّى يَفْعَلُوا ذَلِكَ بِسُرُورٍ لَا آئِينَ. لِأَنَّ هَذَا غَيْرُ نَافِعٍ لَكُمْ.
صَلُّوا مِنْ أَجْلِنَا، فَإِنَّا نَتَّقُ بَأْنَ لَنَا ضَمِيرًا صَالِحًا، فَنَرُغِبُ فِي أَنْ نَحْسِنَ
النَّصْرَةَ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ. وَأَطْلُبُ ذَلِكَ بِأَشَدِّ الْحَاحِ حَتَّى أُرَدَّ إِلَيْكُمْ فِي أَسْرَعِ

وَقَت. وَإِلَهُ السَّلَام، الَّذِي أَعَادَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ رَاعِي الْخِرَافِ الْعَظِيمِ، بِدَمِ
العَهْدِ الْأَبَدِيِّ رَبَّنَا يَسُوعَ، يُكْمَلُكُمْ فِي كُلِّ عَمَلٍ صَالِحٍ، حَتَّى تَعْمَلُوا بِمَشِيئَتِهِ،
عَامِلًا فِيكُمْ مَا هُوَ مَرْضِي لَدَيْهِ بِيسوعِ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي لَهُ الْمَجْدُ إِلَى أَبَدِ الْأَبَدِينَ،
أَمِينَ.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا

في ذلك الزمان كان يسوع يعلم في أحد المجامع في السبت، وهناك امرأة فيها
روح مرض من ثماني عشرة سنة، وكانت منحنية الظهر لا تستطيع أن تنتصب.
فلما رآها يسوع دعاها وقال لها: "أنت معافاة من مرضك. ووضعت يديه عليها،
فانتصبت في الحال ومجدت الله. فقال رئيس المجمع للحاضرين وهو مغتاظ، لأن
يسوع أبرأ في السبت: "عندكم ستة أيام ينبغي العمل فيها، ففيها تأتون وتستشفون،
لا في يوم السبت!" فأجابه الرب: "يا مرائي! أما يحل كل واحد منكم رباط ثوره أو
حماره في السبت من المذود ويأخذه ليسقيه؟ وهذه ابنة إبراهيم ربطها الشيطان من
ثماني عشرة سنة، أما كان ينبغي أن تحل من رباطها يوم السبت؟" ولما قال هذا،
خزي جميع معارضيه، وفرح الجمع بكل الأعمال المجيدة التي كان يعملها

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

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