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

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The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat Fare)

The Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Kapiton, Elpidios, Agathodoros and Aetherios; Venerable Laurence; Venerable Paul the Simple, disciple of Anthony the Great

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Tone 6; Eothinon 6

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of our Patron the Archangel Michael (Tone 4)

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

Kontakion for the Prodigal Son (Tone 1)

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

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday of the Last Judgment)

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

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

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care, lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you—a man of knowledge—at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

THE GOSPEL (for the Sunday of the Last Judgment)

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

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

to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Synaxarion

On March 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Kapiton, Elpidios, Agathodoros and Aetherios; Venerable Laurence; and Venerable Paul the Simple, disciple of Venerable Anthony the Great.

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

Verses

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

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

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

A Note Regarding Holy Communion

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

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered by Marcia O'Dea with prayers for the birthdays of Damien O'Dea, Maurie O'Dea, Habib Chala, Patrick O'Dea;

the good health of Sean O'Dea and Tara Chala; and in loving memory of Ricardo Chala.

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made for the recent birthday of Sienna Hallak and Sebastian Pena, the grandchildren of Mimi & Nichola Hallak; also Khalil & Amy Hallak, celebrating their wedding anniversary. May God grant them many years!

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

The Sunday of the Cheese Fare*

<u>Great Vespers</u> – Saturday, March 13th, 5 p.m. <u>Orthros</u> – Sunday, March 14th, 8:45 a.m.; <u>Divine Liturgy</u>, 10 a.m.

The Beginning of Great Lent – Monday, March 15th Lenten Weekday Services

<u>Great Compline</u> – Mondays, 6:30 p.m. <u>Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts</u> – Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March is Women's Month in the Antiochian Archdiocese

Reading the epistle this morning is: Claudia Zait.

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 Virtual Bible Study

Bible Study with Father Timothy — will meet this Tuesday, March 9th at 7 p.m. A Zoom link and security password provided in a weekly parish email. Each study is limited to one hour. We will continue our study of chapter 8 of the Book of Romans. 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.

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>.

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

Mar 14 - Phyllis Grates (Cheese Fare)

Mar 17 - (Pre-sanctified Liturgy)

Note: There are no Coffee

Hours scheduled

Mar 21 - Michael & Pat Malouf and Emile Skaff ("Sunday of Orthodoxy")

Mar 25 - (Feast of the Annunciation) - open

Mar 28 - open

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

Bookstore Orders Available on Parish Website

You may place an order through our parish website or e-mail Bobbi Monsue (Manager) for special orders at: <u>bobbi_monsue@att.net</u>. Now is the time to place your order for your Holy Week Service Book.

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 frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Church Telephone: 818/994-2313 www.stmichaelvannuys.org

Dear St. Michael Church Family,

I pray that you are all well and hanging in there during this difficult time. I thought of a great way for us to spend some quality family time together and entertain each other during quarantine.

Do you have people in your family who are skilled bakers, talented musicians, or great artists? Maybe there's something fun and or silly that you know how to do and can teach others?...We'd like you to create how-to videos and we will share them on St. Michael's Facebook page so kids and others stuck at home can watch and learn from you.

Please send your videos to me at <u>blajalat@gmail.com</u>. My goal it to post a weekly how-to video. I would love it if each house hold at St. Michael's created a fun how-to video to help us all stay connected.

Blessings,

Brittney Ajalat

Young Parent's Ministry

P.S. Stay connected. Maintain contact with each other and receive informative materials from our group App. Enter the conversation by logging on to: https://band.us/n/a0af2b6334W85

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church 16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Phone: 818-994-2313 Website: www.stmichaelvannuys.org

2021 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

 All enrolled members <u>must first fulfill</u> a to the Archdiocese annually (this does 	fair share contribution that is paid 100% by St. Michael Churd not include your family pledge obligation BELOW).
Total number of baptized Orthodox persons	s (age 18 & above) in your household\$50 each
Total number of baptized Orthodox person	s (age 17 & under) in your household\$35 each
(Please print all names	s with information in the section below)
2. In gratitude of God's blessings, I / we p	eledge to contribute St. Michael Church expenses.
	(see Treasure self-assessment chart)
\$weekly \$monthly \$_	quarterly \$semi-annually \$annually
Name	Spouse Name
Phone number	E-mail Address
Address	City State Zip
 a. You may write a check to "St. Micha (see address above) b. You may process an "automatic bill copy earmarked check to St. Mich c. You may pay by credit card using or at: https://www.stmichaelvannuy. d. You may arrange for a recurring mo our church bank routing number 	ur website donation page (a 3% processing fee will apply) s.org/donate/ and we will be immediately notified. In the processing fee will apply) strong and bank account using and bank account. In should be earmarked, i.e., "Building Fund," "Pledge," etc.
Name	Age
Name	

Our 2021 Pledge Form Provided with this Bulletin

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2021 form. Everyone's financial situation is subject to changes from year to year. In the same way, our parish depends upon the financial pledge commitments of its members in order to meet its monthly expenses. Hard copies will be mailed to you by request. May God bless us all in practicing good Christian stewardship.

WITH THE BLESSING OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH

THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF LOS ANGELES AND THE WEST PRESENT...

AN ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S VIRTUAL LENTEN RETREAT!

COST: FREE IN-KIND DONATIONS ACCEPTED IN SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY

CHECK EMAIL FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION

SATURDAY APRIL 17, 2021

9AM - 1PM PST

ZOOM MEETING WILL OPEN AT 8:30 A.M. FOR FELLOWSHIP



FEATURED SPEAKER: KH. RANDA KHOURY AZAR ICONOGRAPHER

Ask Abouna Featuring:



V. Rev Fr. David Hovik St. Andrew Antiochian Church Arlington, WA



V. Rev. Fr. Paul Baba Holy Virgin Mary Antiochian Church West Sacramento. CA



Rev. Fr. Mansour Azar St. George Antiochian Church Upland, CA

A SPECIAL SURPRISE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

Antiochian Women's Book Club - March 10th at 6:30 p.m.

The book selected selected for AW across our Archdiocese is "The Holy Angels" by Mother Alexandra. The book study will again meet this Wednesday and subsequent Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship, and study at 6:45 p.m. for an hour. All interested should contact Charmaine Darmour by e-mail at: cdarmour@sbcglobal.net

2021 Parish Calendars Are Being Distributed

A copy of our 2021 church calendar will be mailed to all pledging and regular contributing members of our parish.

PASTORAL SERMON

The Sunday of Meat Fare By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig March 7, 2021

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

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

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

But you may ask what about all of the fearful descriptions of hell, fire and brimstone in the Bible? These are warnings in pictorial representation, just as they are found in icons. However, these images are not interpreted as geographic or

physical places created by God for the punishment of human beings. They are admonitions with a clear and serious message: Life outside of the love of God results in evil, falsehood, hatred, guilt, alienation, and pain. Life apart from God leads to agony of darkness in which people torment themselves and each other. It is a spiritual hell created not by God but by the willful refusal to turn to God, Who is love, in order to be forgiven, cleansed, renewed and liberated.

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

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

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

THE SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEAT FARE)

THE HIEROMARTYRS OF CHERSON: BASIL, EPHRAIM, EUGENE, KAPITON, ELPIDIOS,
AGATHODOROS AND AETHERIOS; VENERABLE LAURENCE; VENERABLE PAUL THE SIMPLE,
DISCIPLE OF ANTHONY THE GREAT

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن السادس

إنّ القواتِ الملائكية ظهرت عند قبرك الموقر، فالحراسُ صاروا كالأموات، ومريم وقفت عند القبرِ طالبةً جسدَك الطاهر، فسبيتَ الجحيمَ ولم تُجرّب منها، وصادفتَ البتولَ مانحاً الحياة، فيا من قام من بين الأموات، يا ربّ المجدُ لك.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيها المتقدّمونَ على الأجنّادُ السّماويين، نتوسلُ إليكم نحن غير المستحقّين، حتّى أَتّكم بطلباتِكم تكتنو فوننا بظلِّ أجنحة مجدِكم غير الهيولي، حافظينَ إيّانا نحنُ الجاثين والصارخينَ بغير فتور، أنقذونا منَ الشدائد، بما أنّكم رؤساءُ مراتب القوّاتِ العلوية.

إِذَا أَتَيْتَ يَا اللهُ عَلَى الأَرْضِ بِمَجْدٍ، فَتَرْتَعِدُ مِنْكَ البَرايا بِأَسْرِها، ونَهْرُ النارِ يَجْري أَمامَ عَرْشِكَ، والصُحُفُ تُفْتَحُ، والخَفايا تُشَهَّرُ، فَنَجِّني حِينَئَذٍ مِنَ النارِ التي لا تُطْفَأ، وأَهَّلْني لِلْوقوفِ عَنْ يَمينِكَ، أَيُّها الدَّيانُ العادِل.

الرسالة

قوتي وتسبيحتي الرب, أدباً أدبني الرب. فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى أهل كورنشس

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

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

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس متى

قال الربّ: متى جاء ابنُ البشر في مجدِه, ومعه جميعُ الملائكة القديسين يستوي على عرشِ مجدِه. وتُحشد أمامه جميعُ الشعوبِ فيميز بعضهم من بعض, مثلما يميز الراعي الخراف عن الجداء, فيقيم الخراف عن يمينه, والجداء عن يساره. ويقول للذين عن يمينه: تعالوا بيا من باركهم أبي, رثوا الملك المهيأ لكم منذ إنشاء العالم, لأني جعت فأطعمتموني, وعطشت فسقتموني, وكنت غريبا فآويتموني, وعريانا فكسوتموني, ومريضا فزرتموني, وسجينا فجئتم إلي. فيجيبه الصديقون: يا رب, متى رأيناك جائعا فأطعمناك؟ أو عطشانا فسقيناك؟ ومتى رأيناك غريبا فآويناك؟ أو عريانا فكسوناك؟ ومتى رأيناك غريبا فآويناك؟ أو عريانا بما أنكم فعلتم هذا لواحد من اخوتي الصغار, فلي فعلتموه! ثم يقول للذين عن يساره: التعدوا عني, يا ملاعين, إلى النار الأبدية المهيأة لإبليس وملائكته: لأني جعتُ فلم تطعموني, وعطشت فلم تسقوني, وكنت غريبا فلم تؤووني, وعرينا فلم تكسوني, ومريضا وسجينا فلم تزوروني. فيجيبه هؤلاء: يا رب متى رأيناك جائعا أو عطشانا, غريبا أو عرياناً واحد من اخوتي الصغار, فلي لم تفعلوه! فيذهب هؤلاء إلى العذاب أنكم لم تفعلوا هذا لواحد من اخوتي الصغار, فلي لم تفعلوه! فيذهب هؤلاء إلى العذاب الأبدي، والصديقون إلى الحياة الأبدية

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

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