

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

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Paschal Apolytikion (Tone 5)

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

Hapakoe of Pascha (Tone 4)

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

Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8)

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

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for Pascha)

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

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

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

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

THE GOSPEL (for Pascha)

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

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

Next Sunday is **Thomas Sunday**

Saturday, May 8th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 9th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Epitaphios (*E-pee-TAH-fee-os*), which has been placed on the altar – representing the Tomb of Christ, will remain on the altar until the Feast of the Ascension (Thursday, June 10th). At that time, the image of Christ will be returned to the Cross. The image of the entombed Christ, however is a permanent part of the altar as the “tablecloth” (Antimension; *Anti-MEN-see-on*), resting under the Gospel Book. It is opened for the “anaphora” (time of the offering in the Liturgy), or the second part of the Divine Liturgy when the bread and wine are placed on the altar for consecration. It is a cloth signed by the Metropolitan Archbishop and is the church’s credentials as a canonical Orthodox Church of Apostolic succession.

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

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

Leaves on the floor?

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

“Renewal Week”

The week following Easter in the Orthodox Church is a full celebration of Christ’s Resurrection. The entire week is known as “Bright Week” or “Renewal Week” because the entire creation is renewed in Christ. During the coming week and for the next forty days there is no fasting at all. From the period of Easter to the Feast of the Ascension (Thursday June 10th), Orthodox Christians greet each other with “Christ is Risen!” and the response: “Truly, He is risen!” During this period we also do not kneel in private or congregational prayer. Traditionally, a Divine Liturgy is held with a Paschal procession every day during Bright Week. The unique character of the season is heard in all services: funerals, baptisms, weddings, etc.

HOLY WEEK and PASCHAL OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is offered by the Deeb family in loving memory of their uncle Carl Andrews (+24 April, 2021), with prayers for their aunt Alice Deeb Andrews and family. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is offered by Laila Dawud for the health of her family: Nadeem, David, Nahil, Neveen, Natalie, Assad, Assad, Dema, Emily and Andrew; also in memory of her beloved husband, Assad and daughter Dema Dawud. Memory eternal.

Roses for the tomb of Christ are being offered by the Deeb family in loving memory of their departed loved ones: Edward & Marion Deeb; Caren Deeb Kouri, Rose Deeb, Eli Deeb; Carrie Deeb Skaff; Sam & Amelia Nader; Derek Jacob, Libby Jacob; Anthony, Rhoda, Elsie, Eddie & Elsie Barkett; Jeannette & Louis Aboud, Vilma Anthony, Sharon Rowihab; Jimmy & Odette George; Rula & Assad Najjar; Paul Kouri, George Deeb, Elaine Srour, Carl Andrews and Modi Deeb. May they rest in peace. Memory eternal.

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

The lei for the Holy Cross was offered by Father Timothy in memory of his parents, Professor Andres Baclig, Sr. (+5 March, 1992) & Lucille C. Baclig (+8 March, 1992); and the altar basket in memory of his sister, Arlene Horne (+7 July, 2020). Memory eternal.

Festal flowers are being offered by...

Laila Dawud for the health of her family and in loving memory of her husband, Assad Dawud, and daughter, Dema Dawud. Memory eternal.

For the continued health of Ron & Kathy Zraick, Ron Jr.;
Thomas & Julia Zraick; Jill, Martin, Henry and Colin Phipps;
Tom & Jennie Zraick; Kim, John, Jenna, Sophie and Gavin Scott;
and in loving memory of Lucas Scott, Edna & Issac Zraick,
Thomas & Camille Adeeb, Diana Haddad, Lorraine Ghiz, Louise Martin,
Richard Zraick, Renee Kabbez, Angelina Diab and Protosyngelos
the Archimandrite, Paul Doyle. Memory eternal.

by Joyce Salamy for the health of the Salamy, Moujaes and Ajalat families and in memory of Raymond Salamy; Mitry and Elizabeth Ajalat.
Memory eternal.

by Samia Habib for the health of Sharon Katerelos, Phyllis Grates, John & Katrina Tambouras, Fr. Michael, Khouriye Maria, Maximus, Maura and Matthias Habib; Gabriel Habib; and in loving memory of: Gregory Habib, Charles & Leila Malouf, William & Jamilie Habib, Matthew Tambouras, Antoinette Maalouf, and Michael Maalouf.
Memory eternal

by Robert & Nicole Webster with the prayers for the health and salvation of: Minnie Tobey Lush and the Camacho, Nassir, Toby, Webster, Murphy, Maloney and Sealy Families.

by Fred & Tanya Milkie for the health of Fred, Tanya Dominick, Alek, Alisa Milkie; Fred & Leila Milkie; Ed, Zoe, Genevieve, Gwendolyn and Charlotte Milkie; Dan, Diana and Page Nixon; Mary, Danny, Jimmie, Chris and Matthew Andrews; Darron, Pam, Gia, Antonio and Lila Rishwain; Raymond & Georgianna Rishwain; and in loving memory of: Nassima and Baby Leila Milkie; Carl & Emma Milkie; Nahle & Afife Chammas; Nick & Helen Nicola; Joe & Rose Rishwain, Sia Eraklis and Anthony Rishwain. Memory eternal.

Tony Nader in loving memory of his parents and in-laws
Nouhad & Aref Nader, and Youssef & Labibi Habak. Memory eternal.

for the health of the Azzam and Hallak families and in memory of:
Bandaly & Claire Azzam; Fouad, Bassem, Nazira, Khalil, Farha, Issa, Laila, Najla, George and Yacob

by Charlotte Murr for the health and salvation of Marcia Terry, Vanessa Obenhaus and family, Christopher Murr and family, Mallory J. Murr, Nicholas G. Murr; Nancy & Richard Dyhle, Catherine & Allan Leonardo; and in memory of Gary G. Murr, Sondra M. Love, Lillian & Saba Murr, Charlotte Black, John J. Black, Sr., and John J. Black, Jr.
Memory eternal.

for the health and happiness of Rami, Basma,
Hannah and Michael Madain.

by Laila Abughazaleh for the health of the Abughazaleh, Azzam,
Ababseh, and Tannous families
and in memory of their departed loved ones.

by Adeeb & Nuha Abughazaleh for the health of their children and
grandchildren and in memory of: Elias & Caroline, Mike, Janet, Claire,
Emil, Yousef, Georgette, Khalil, Bandaly, Kikey, Henrrieytte,
Shafiq and Heleneh. Memory eternal.

by Mary Boutros in memory of Vera Bibi, Hanna Bibi, Peter Boutros;
with prayers for the health of the Boutros and Bibi families.

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

for the continued health of Ed Chaffin

for the continued health of Eric Nelson

for the continued and good health of Devadas Panga and in memory of:
Jorge Flores (+25 April, 2021), Pravin Lai (+21 April, 2021), and
Joji Panga (+10 April, 2021)

for the newborn child, Lyla Hines born to Adrienne & Regan Hines on
Wednesday, April 21, 2020. May God grant them many years!
Congratulations!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Agape” / “Baouth” Vespers – Sunday, May 2nd, 11 a.m.

[Note: The Annual Church School “Search for the Empty Egg” will take
place following the Service]

The Blessing of Easter Baskets

We will not be able to hold a parish “Paschal Breakfast” following the
midnight Liturgy. However, Father Timothy will be blessing personal Easter
baskets and Easter eggs following the service. We sincerely thank the
contributions that have been received for our Food for the Hungry People
collection this year. Christ is risen!

Thanks to All!

We sincerely thank everyone who assisted with all that was needed to be done in preparing the church for our worship services throughout Great Lent and Holy Week. We especially thank my concelebrants, Father Minas Sarchizian, Deacon Andrew Monsue, my Pastoral Assistant, Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, our Choir Director, Art Danks; our altar servers, chanters and singers; Monitors; Youth Director, Cooper Rowe, our Young Adults; Church School Director, Lila Coudsy, Brittney Ajalat, Young Parent's Ministry, Charmaine Darmour and the Antiochian Women, and Head Usher and Arabic Translator, Ramez Hage. [Father Timothy]

Summer Camp Scholarships Available

Attention Parents: Thanks to the funding of The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch, Summer Camp scholarships are available to any young person active in our parish and who may benefit from some help. Please speak with Father Timothy for more information. The deadline is June 1, 2021.

Food for the Hungry People Drive

You may have received the Food for the Hungry People mailing from Robin Nicholas. Your contribution may be made through our parish by writing your check to "St. Michael Church", earmarked: "FFHP" and our parish collection will be sent in at the end of Great Lent. If you have a coin box, you may either mail a check for the total amount to the parish or should you turn in your box be sure to put your name on the box when you turn it in. Thank you for your support of our annual Lenten charity campaign.

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: bobbi_monsue@att.net. Your credit card will also be accepted for payment. Now is the time to order your copy of our Holy Week Service Book.

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, May 17th at 4:30 p.m.

Have you visited our FaceBook page recently?

See Alek Milkie's: "How to make a Blessing Bag." Next week Julianna Aparicio will show us: "How to Do Modern Calligraphy" (Brittney Ajalat, Young Parent's Ministry).

Save the Date for our St. Michael Golf Classic



Our 30th Annual Golf Classic is now scheduled for Monday, September 27, 2021 at the Woodland Hills Country Club. Mark your calendars to save the date for a fun-filled gathering for our parish community. Any questions? Contact Don Meena or Fred Milkie.

Thank you!

The Antiochian Women thanks our parish family and friends for their generosity and support of our recent fundraisers (Lenten food sales, Easter basket sales, Palm Sunday Bake Sale and our Basket Raffle) in support of our various charitable commitments. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. Congratulations to the five winners of our Basket Raffle: Big Candle Basket - Kiera O'Dea; Disney Basket - Ronald Tamoush; Family Fun Game Blanket and Snacks - Samia Habib; Mother's Day Basket #1 - Carrie Sadd Khouri; Mother's Day Basket #2 - Laila Dawud.

Our 2021 Pledge Form Provided with this Bulletin

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2021 form. An annual "Fair Share Contribution" is paid by St. Michael Church to the Archdiocese (\$50/adult; \$35/17 years of age or under). 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.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Phone: 818-994-2313
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2021 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

1. All enrolled members must first fulfill a fair share contribution that is paid 100% by St. Michael Church to the Archdiocese annually (this does not include your family pledge obligation BELOW).

Total number of baptized Orthodox persons (age 18 & above) in your household _____ \$50 each _____

Total number of baptized Orthodox persons (age 17 & under) in your household _____ \$35 each _____

(Please print all names with information in the section below)

2. In gratitude of God's blessings, I / we pledge to contribute St. Michael Church expenses.

A total annual amount of: ____ (see Treasure self-assessment chart)

\$ _____ weekly \$ _____ monthly \$ _____ quarterly \$ _____ semi-annually \$ _____ annually

Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Phone number _____ E-mail Address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. How do you wish to pay? We accept personal checks or credit card payments. (See below)

- a. You may write a check to "St. Michael Church" and mail it to the Church Office. (see address above)
- b. You may process an "automatic bill pay" with your bank that will mail a recurring monthly hard-copy earmarked check to St. Michael Church.
- c. You may pay by credit card using our website donation page (a 3% processing fee will apply) at: <https://www.stmichaelvannuys.org/donate/> and we will be immediately notified.
- d. You may arrange for a recurring monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account using our church bank routing number and bank account.

Note: Each donation to St. Michael Church should be earmarked, i.e., "Building Fund," "Pledge," etc.

Print names of baptized Orthodox persons in your household.

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

New Church Building Fund

As we approach the completion of our new church building project it has been determined that we are \$400,000.00 dollars short in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy from the City of Los Angeles. We still have many items to comply with, that include codes set by the City and State in order to be able to worship in our new church as a "public use building."

We are very thankful for the many who have generously supported our Project, however, there remains fifty households of our parish who have not donated to our project.

We have now developed a parishioner loan program that will enable you to help us reach our goal of occupancy (\$50,000.00 dollar minimum), whereby you will be paid interest on the loan plus a five-year payback. This will be backed by a Promissory Note. There are other details that will be discussed should you express a willingness to lend the money to the church.

We are also exploring a Line of Credit with Umpqua Bank to complete the project. In the case of a Line of Credit you only pay interest on the money you draw, and not the established amount of credit.

Ideally, we would like to avoid any type of loans and remain debt free. Should you have any questions please contact Ron Zraick by e-mail ronaldzraick@gmail.com or by phone at 310-897-1571.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

May 2, 2021

Beloved in Christ,

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

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

Celebrating comes with whole hearted preparation. The more the preparation, the greater the celebration. Our time together during Great Lent as parish community has again been glorious thanks to everyone's help and contribution to our services.

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

As Christ's agents of hope and reconciliation in the world, let us take seriously the Paschal message of forgiveness that we may be examples of overcoming all forms of division, hatred, and enmity. The Resurrection of Christ reveals to the world that darkness, hatred and death does not have the final say. God's love is triumphant and provides healing from sin and human weaknesses.

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

Christ is risen!

Father Timothy Baclig
Pastor

