

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406 **stmichaelvannuys.org**

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York

and Metropolitan of all North America

www.antiochian.org

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The First Sunday after Pentecost; All Saints Sunday

**The Righteous Sampson the host of strangers;
Mary and Joanna the Myrrh-bearers**

Sunday, June 27, 2021

Tone 8; Eothinon 1

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 8)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of All Saints (Tone 4)

Thy Church, O Christ God, hath regaled herself in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout the entire world, as in porphyry and purple. Through them she lifteth her voice crying: Turn with Thy compassion toward Thy people, and grant peace to Thy city, and to our souls the Great Mercy.

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 All Saints (Tone 8)

As first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, the world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in offering unto Thee, O Lord. Through their earnest entreaties, keep Thy Church in deep peace and divine tranquility, through the pure Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for All Saints)

God is wonderful among His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11:33 – 12:2)

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

THE GOSPEL (The Sunday of All Saints)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew (10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30)

The Lord said to His disciples, “Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father Who is in heaven; but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father Who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.” Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed Thee. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the New World, when the Son of Man shall sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name’s sake, will receive a hundred fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”

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 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.) Please see the Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered by Janice Khoury and family for the one-year memorial of the servant of God, Richard Khoury (+27 June, 2020); beloved husband, father and grandfather. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Ron & Kathy Zraick for the forty-day memorial of the newly departed servant of God, Audree Yacoub (+27 June, 2020); beloved sister and sister-in-law of Ron & Kathy Zraick, mother of Khouiye Claudia Zain, and beloved grandmother. Memory eternal.

Additional quests for prayer are being made . . .

with gratitude for the continuing recovery of Emile Skaff, Sr. and for Father Michael Habib, celebrating his 40th natal day with his mother and family this weekend in Idaho; birthday blessings to Father Minas Sarchizian on the occasion of his natal day (June 24); congratulations to Violet & Johnny Jurado, celebrating their wedding anniversary (June 24); much happiness to Violet on her birthday (June 29); and warmest birthday wishes to Robert Webster (June 28); and E. Frank Skaff, Jr., on his 53rd birthday (June 30).

by Constantine & Mandy Nasr and family for the repose of Constantine's uncle; the newly-departed servant of God, Atif Asal (+18 June, 2021) of Oklahoma City. Memory eternal.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Carlos Mendoza, the neighbor of Sharon Katerelos; with prayers for his surviving wife and two teenage daughters. Memory eternal.

The Fast of the Holy Apostles (June 28, 2021)

The **Apostles' Fast**, also called the **Fast of the Holy Apostles**, the **Fast of Peter and Paul**, or sometimes **St. Peter's Fast**, is observed by the Orthodox, this year,

only on the second Monday after the Feast of Pentecost, concluding with the Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul (June 29th), when we will serve the Divine Liturgy (at 10 a.m.).

Having rejoiced for fifty days following Pascha (Easter), the Apostles began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to spread Christ's message. According to Holy Tradition, as part of their preparation, they began a fast with prayer to ask God to strengthen their resolve and to be with them in their missionary undertakings.

The scriptural foundation for the Fast is found in the four Gospels, when the Pharisees criticized the apostles for not fasting, Jesus said to them, "Can the children of the bridal chamber mourn, as long as the Bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the Bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast." In the immediate sense, Christ was referring to his being taken to be crucified; but in the wider sense it is understood in terms of his Ascension into heaven, and his commission to preach the Gospel, which can only be accomplished with prayer and fasting.

The tradition of the Fast has existed at least since Pope Leo I (461 AD), as is evidenced by his homilies, though it has subsequently been forgotten in the West. The Fast is thought to have been instituted out of thanksgiving to God for the witness of the apostles of Christ. With this Fast, believers express their thanks for the apostles' endurance of persecution during their mission.

The Apostles' Fast is not as severe as Great Lent or the Dormition Fast, but entails fasting from red meat, poultry, meat products, eggs, dairy products, fish, oil, and wine. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, and oil and wine are allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These fasting rules are much the same as those observed during the Nativity Fast. Depending on the date of Pascha, the Apostles' Fast can begin as early as May 18 or as late as June 21. Thus, it may be as short as one day, as it is this year, or as long as forty-two days in duration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday, June 29 at 7 p.m.

Our next Bible Study will be held on Tuesday evening, June 29th, at 7 p.m. We will be concluding our study of chapters 5 and 6 of St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out on Tuesday. Sessions are recorded for those unable to attend who may also request the link to the study. Plan to join us.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Fast of the Apostles

Monday, June 28th

[The traditional fasting discipline is observed from the Monday after All Saints' Sunday through June 28th (the eve of Ss. Peter & Paul). Fish, wine and oil are permitted on Monday and Tuesday, however we abstain from animal meat and dairy products.]

The Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul - June 29

Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Second Sunday after Pentecost

Great Vespers at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 3rd

Orthros – Sunday, July 4th, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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.

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

June 29 - open (Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul)

July 04 - open

July 11 - open

July 17 - open

July 24 - open

Outdoor coffee hour hosted by Father Timothy

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

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 26, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Teen Pool Party

Save the Date: July 8-10, 2021 - Virtual Parish Life Conference

With Sayidna JOSEPH, Organization Meetings and Workshops

Diocesan Fall Gathering (St. John Church; Orinda, CA), October 8-10

Have You Visited our FaceBook Page Lately?

Check out Juliana Aparicio teaching us: How to: Write Modern Calligraphy on our FaceBook page. This week Nicholas Aparicio teaches us "How To: Improve Your Swing." Do you have something you can make a "How To" video about? Contact Brittney Ajalat of our Young Parent's Ministry and will be will have it posted on our FaceBook page.

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. A new book release by Fr. Stephen de Young, now available is: The Religion of the Apostles; Orthodox Christianity in the First Century. Father Stephen is the co-host of "Lords of the Spirits" on Ancient Faith Radio. Your credit card will also be accepted for payment.

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. Hardcopies will be mailed to you by request.

Reminder

No one attending a theater event is late to be seated and are on-time before the doors are closed. In fact, devout fans of a sports event plan an early arrival for "tailgate parties" if not, to get a good parking space before the start of a game. Why are many of us poor in our discipline at arriving at church on time? If we are coming to be recipients of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we should do our very best to be present at the bare minimum to hear the lesson of the Epistle and Holy Gospel if not before.

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16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Phone: 818-994-2313
Website: www.stmichaelvannuys.org

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

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



SAVE THE DATE!

2021 Virtual Archdiocese Convention

**His Eminence
Metropolitan Joseph
presiding**



Schedule of Virtual Events:

- General Assembly Meeting
- Young Adults Event
- Teen SOYO Event
- Breakout Rooms
 - Finance
 - Stewardship
 - Pandemic

***Friday (Evening) ~ July 23, 2021 and
Saturday (Morning/Afternoon) ~ July 24, 2021***

DETAILS COMING SOON...

Pastor's Sermon
The Sunday of All Saints
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
June 27, 2021

Today, the Sunday following the Feast of Pentecost is the Sunday that we commemorate all saints who have lived since the beginning of time. In the western Church "All Saints' Day" is the first of November (the eve of which is called "All Hallows Eve"). For we Orthodox, the Sunday commemorating all saints is the Sunday following the Feast of Pentecost. This is because of its connection to the Feast of Pentecost. It was in Antioch that the Sunday of All Saints began as a commemoration of martyrs in the 4th c.

The word **martyr** implies: "one who is a witness." The Greek and Aramaic word for martyr is the same word for "witness." It is God the Holy Spirit who indwells us, empowering us to be Christ's witnesses with a spiritual power. Not every saint is a martyr. However, being a witness, or to testify that Christ is the Lord of one's life, is the call of every Christian.

From the readings from the Old Testament prophesy of Isaiah heard last night at Great Vespers (43:9ff) we heard: *"...You are my witnesses" says the Lord, "and My servant[s] whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Me. I am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior. I [have revealed] and saved and proclaimed, [I and not some] strange god among you; and you are My witnesses," says the Lord...*

It is the gift of the Holy Spirit, or Christ's Spirit that enables one to be a Christian witness. In each and every generation beginning with the days of the holy Apostles, there have been countless numbers of witnesses; men and women whose lives have been a living testimony to the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. St. Paul speaks to this by describing the host of witnesses in heaven with the image of them cheering us on as in a grandstand:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

There were many saints, before the time of Christ who were martyrs: men and women under the old covenant, who, because of their faith, paid the ultimate price. They were heroes of the faith. Some of them are described in today's epistle reading.

Second the word "saint" in Greek is the word "the holy" (*agios*), meaning: "one who is called apart from" or "called to be distinct from." Saints are among the living and the dead. Every Christian is called to be in the communion of saints. Calling anyone a "saint" already implies that someone is special and unique. However, it is important to remember that what characteristically made someone a saint was his or her ability to confess his sins and to be humble in the eyes of all men.

Christians are personally called to become separate; not independent, not in isolation, not even to be exclusive. Every Christian is called to be holy (*Agios*); called, chosen, and sanctified. Simply stated, saints are part of a community who are active in knowing and loving God. They are blessed as often as they commit themselves each day to love the Lord our God with all their heart, soul and mind, and their neighbor as themselves. Also bearing in mind that "no one can say that he loves God and not love his neighbor." Second, Christians are called to reach out to others; to be prepared to tell their story. The Holy Apostle Peter reminds us: *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have (I Peter 3:15).*

We live in a time when religion is considered by some as an evil in the world. It is considered divisive, controlling; by some, “male oriented.” We Christians have to be aware of the world that we live in and what are the pervasive views and attitudes of our time. There are many who have become very outspoken, some of whom are atheists, advocating that the notion that “God is not great.” It is part of the spirit of our age called, “secular humanism,” an age that disregards any notion, relevance, or belief in God. And so, to be a Christian today, and more importantly, to raise our children as Christians requires a real depth in understanding correctly; having a true image of God and to be surrounded by people of faith and discipline.

If you and I today think that we do not face the same kind of choices that the ancient heroes of our faith faced, we are deluding ourselves. While it may be true that you and I may not be called to become martyrs in the same manner that the ancients did, we live in a time where there is a great deal of confusion about what is the truth. There are *anti-Christ's*. Now while there are in fact some who are very blatant in their anti-Christian views, you need to be aware that the word “anti-Christ” does not mean “one who is in opposition to Christ,” but what or who is worshipped “in place of” Christ. In other words, you and I, your children and my children, are today being faced with daily personal choices that determine who is our God. You see, each of our personal choices, as insignificant as they might seem to us, accumulatively reveal the God we worship. The Fathers of our Church constantly warn us about being deceived. We are constantly reminded to be on our guard, to watch, and to be vigilant.

A good Christian witness is never someone without discipline, without a framework or structure to our lives. And what are these disciplines: prayer, fasting, going to church to receive the sacraments, repentance, just to name a few. And if you and I consider that these things are mere rituals, that they are just a part of our family heritage and culture, or regard them as the ornaments of our faith, then you and I have yet to venture into the deep. By not doing this we will live our lives in shallow water without spiritual power.

There is a great deal about our American way of life that has dominated the national attitude towards religion. The value of our independent way of thinking causes us to formulate for ourselves the way that we are most comfortable in practicing our religion; a kind of “smorgasbord” or buffet religion, where we pick and choose what we like and just forget about being serious about we don’t like.

For the baptized Christian who bears God’s Spirit in their life it means that we will be challenged. We cannot be men and women, husbands and wives, mothers and fathers who are complacent. We cannot remain as children content in a wading pool. Today’s Christian must be very courageous and devoted, fervent in prayer and faith. This kind of courage and devotion is not something that manifests itself without spiritual power. Moreover, spiritual power is not manifested as in the ways of physical or political might. It requires being grounded in the knowledge of the truth, being steadfast and unshakable in faith and love, discernment and prayer.

You and I, our children and grandchildren are the products of the daily choices we make. This includes: how many hours we spend at work, how many hours we spend with our families, the sources we choose to be informed by and influenced, where and how we choose to spend our resources, just to name a few.

While your and my personal calling may not be so explicitly “Apostolic” as The Twelve were so called, there is much to be done in fulfilling our call as parents and teachers: by informing, advising guiding, guarding and protecting; most importantly, to be true witnesses. It begins with acknowledging what are our personal responsibilities; taking them seriously; doing our best in all that we will ultimately be accountable to God.

Prayer

“O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life: come and abide in us and cleanse us from all impurity and save our souls, O gracious Lord.” Strengthen us in faith and love and empower us to do Thy will in all things.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

COMMEMORATION OF ALL SAINTS

THE RIGHTEOUS SAMPSON THE HOST OF STRANGERS; MARY AND JOANNA THE MYRRH-BEARERS

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثامن

انحدرت من العلو يا متحنن، وقبلت الدفن ذا الثلاثة الأيام، لكي نُعْتَقْنَا من الآلام، فيا حياتنا
وقيامتنا يا ربّ المجد لك.

طروبارية القديسين على اللحن الرابع

أيها المسيح الإله، إن كنيستك تتسرّب في العالم أجمع دماءً شهدائك، مثل الأرجوان والكتان
الناعم، ونحن نهتف إليك بواسطتهم: أرسل رأفتك على شعبك، وهب لرعتك السلام ولنفسنا
الرحمة العظمى.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيها المتقدّمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسّل إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتّى أنكم
بطلباتكم تكتنّفوننا بظلّ أجنحة مجدكم غير الهولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجاثين
والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوّات العلوية.

قنداق للقديسين على اللحن الثامن

أيها الرب البارئ الخليقة، إن المسكونة تقدّم لك الشهداء اللابسي الله كبواكير الطبيعة.
فبتوسلاتهم احفظ كنيستك في سلام دائم، من أجل والدّة الإله، يا جزيل الرحمة

الرسالة

عجيبٌ هو الله في مقدّسه، في المجامع باركوا الله

فصلٌ من رسالة بولس الرسول إلى العبرانيين

يا إخوة، إن القديسين أجمعين بالإيمان أخضعوا الممالك وأقاموا العدل ونالوا المواعِدَ
وسدوا أفواه الأسود وأخمدوا لهيب النيران ونجوا من حدّ السيف، وتغلّبوا على الضعف
وصاروا أبطالاً في الحروب وهزموا جيوش الغرباء، واستعاد نساءً أمواتهن بالقيامة.

ومنهم من احتمل التعذيب ورفضوا النجاة رغبة في قيامة أفضل، وآخرون قاسوا الهزء والجلد، بل القيود والسجن. ورجموا ونُشروا وقتلوا بحدّ السيف، وهاموا على وجوههم، لباسهم جلود الغنم والماعز محرومين مقهورين مظلومين، لا يستحقهم العالم، فتاهوا في البراري والجبال والمغاور وكهوف الأرض.

ولم يحصل هؤلاء على الموعد مع أنهم مشهود لهم بالإيمان، لأنّ الله أعدّ لنا مصيراً أفضل من مصيرهم وشاء أن لا يصيروا كاملين إلا معنا. لذلك فنحن الذين تُحيط بهم هذه السحابة الكثيفة من الشهود، علينا أن نُلقي عنا كلّ ثقلٍ وما يكتنفنا من خطايا، فنجري بعزم في ميدان الجهاد المُمتدّ أمامنا، ونجعل نصب أعيننا رأس إيماننا ومكملّه يسوع.

الإنجيل

في ذلك الزّمان لما رأى الجموع تحنّ عليهم اذ كانوا منزعجين ومنطرحين كغنم لا راعي لها. حينئذٍ قال لتلاميذه الحصاد كثير ولكن الفعلة قليلون. فاطلبوا من رب الحصاد أن يرسل فعلة الى حصاده. ثم دعا تلاميذه الاثني عشر واعطاهم سلطانا على ارواح نجسة حتى يخرجوها ويشفوا كل مرض وكل ضعف. واما أسماء الاثني عشر رسولاً فهي هذه. الأول سمعان الذي يقال له بطرس واندراوس اخوه. يعقوب بن زبدي ويوحنا اخوه. فيلبس وبرثولماوس. توما ومتى العشّار. يعقوب بن حلفى ولبّاس الملقّب تدّاوس. سمعان القانوني ويهوذا الاسخريوطي الذي اسلمه.

هؤلاء الإثنا عشر ارسلهم يسوع واوصاهم قائلاً. الى طريق امم لا تمضوا والى مدينة للسامريين لا تدخلوا. بل اذهبوا بالحري الى خراف بيت إسرائيل الضالّة. وفيما انتم ذاهبون أكرزوا قائلين انه قد اقترب ملكوت السموات. اشفوا مرضى، طهروا برصاً، اقيموا موتى، اخرجوا شياطين. مجاناً اخذتم مجاناً اعطوا.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

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