

The Dormition of the Righteous Anna, Mother of the Theotokos and the Fifth Sunday of Matthew

Righteous Mothers Olympias, Deaconess of Constantinople; Eupraxia of Tabenna

Sunday, July 25, 2021

Tone 4; Eothinon 5

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

Apolytikion for the Dormition of St. Anna (Tone 4)

O Godly-minded Anna, thou didst give birth unto God's pure Mother who conceived Him Who is our Life. Wherefore, thou hast now passed with joy to thy heavenly rest, wherein is the abode of them that rejoice in glory; and thou askest forgiveness of sins for them that honor thee with love, O ever-blessed one.

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 Dormition of St. Anna (Tone 2)

We celebrate now the mem'ry of Christ's ancestors, while asking their help with faith, that we may all be saved from all manner of tribulation as we fervently cry aloud: Be Thou with us, O Lord our God, Whose pleasure it was to glorify them both.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Dormition of St. Anna)

God is wondrous in His saints. In the churches, bless ye God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (4:22-27)

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by the handmaid, and one by the free-woman. But the one from the handmaid is born according to the flesh; whereas the one from the free-woman is through the promise. These things are an allegory, for these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for bondage, which is Hagar. For Sinai, which corresponds to Hagar, is a mountain in Arabia, and resembles the present Jerusalem, for she is in bondage with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is the mother of us all. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail: For many are the children of the desolate, much more than of her who has a husband."

THE GOSPEL (for the Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew (8:28 – 9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

The Synaxarion

On July 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Dormition of Saint Anna, Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Verses

The Virgin-mother Maiden's Mother now dieth,
Who for child-bearing mothers is swift salvation.
On the twenty-fifth died Anna, the assuager of hard travail.

According to tradition, Anna, the ancestor of God, lived for 79 years, and her spouse Joachim, for 80, who preceded Anna in death. They were married for 50 years and prayed to God for a child—male or female—to comfort them in their old age. Anna gave birth to the one who would bear God in her womb. The Theotokos had been orphaned of both her parents when she was 11 years old, when she was living in the Temple. Saint Anna is invoked for conceiving children, and for help in difficult childbirth.

On this day, we also commemorate our righteous mothers Olympias the deaconess of Constantinople; and Eupraxia of Tabenna. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Wednesday and Friday is observed as days of fasting]

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost and The Sixth Sunday of Matthew

Saturday, July 31st, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, August 1st, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

For Planning Ahead

The Feast of the Dormition this year falls on a Sunday (August 15). The Feast is preceded by a fourteen day fast, beginning on Sunday, August 1st. The traditional fasting discipline includes: no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil, but wine and oil are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays; also fish wine and oil are permitted for the Feast of the Transfiguration (Friday, August 6). A Divine Liturgy will take place for the feasts on August 6th and for the Holy Dormition on August 15th, at 10 a.m. Also a Service of the Paraklesis (Intercessory Prayer) will be scheduled for Wednesday, August 4th and 11th at 6:30 p.m.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread and wheat are being offered by Constantine & Mandy Nasr and family for the forty-day memorial of the newly-departed servant of God, Atif Asal (+18 June, 2021), the uncle of Constantine; and for the three-year memorial of Mandy's mother, Samia Kudmani (+29 July, 2018)

Holy Bread is being offered by Marcia O'Dea, asking for God's continued blessings for Salvador, celebrating his birthday (July 28). May God grant him many years. Prayers are also offered in memory of our precious mother Malvina. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered by Roger Olsen with prayers for the repose of his wife, Laura Olsen (+15 August), friend of Beverly Ansara. Prayers are also offered in memory of Michael Ansara (+31 July), Matthew Ansara (+25 June), Syria Ansara (+16 August), and Dr. Sakae Kawata (+26 August). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered by Milad, Basima and George Sayegh, with prayers for the repose of Aida Dares, Napoleon and Issa Almarji. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered by Ned Toomey in loving memory of his beloved wife, Neda (+31 July, 2010). Memory eternal.

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

by Sharon Katerelos for the health and salvation of Samiah Khatib-Hinton, that her physicians and family receive divine guidance and peace.

by Ousama Zabaneh for the repose of his beloved wife, Anna (+25 July, 2016) and his beloved parents, Rita & Fouad Zabaneh.
Memory eternal.

for the good health and guidance of Justin & Stephanie,
Jason & Shannon Gruetzmacher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Live-streaming Sunday Orthros and Liturgy

If you are unable to be with us at church on Sunday, are on vacation or out-of-town, 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. Mailing your check to the church will save our church a 3% service charge. Other options for your contributions include: a) automatic bill pay and b) recurring automatic withdrawal, both of which may be arranged with your bank. You may contact us for assistance with any of these options; especially when information of our bank routing and account numbers are needed. E-mail your questions to: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Join in our Parish Bible Study Zoom Meetings

Our next Bible Study will be held on Tuesday evening, July 27th, at 7 p.m. We will be beginning our study of St. Paul's Epistle to the Colossians (chapters 1 and 2). 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.

Church Attendance

We are currently requesting that everyone attending our church services to again wear face coverings due to the City policy regarding the rapid rise in the Delta COVID Variant, effective: Sunday, July 18, 2021. Questions will also be answered by Father Timothy by e-mail at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org The Sacrament(s) are also available on weekdays by appointment.

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.

Upcoming Events

5th Annual Orthodox Advanced Leadership Conference
September 21-19, 2021

30th Annual St. Michael Annual Golf Classic
(TBA)

Diocesan Fall Gathering - October 8-10, 2021
Host: St. John Church; Orinda, California

The 57th "Sweetheart Ball" - at the Universal Hilton Hotel
(Saturday, November 27, 2021)

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Aug 01 - open

Aug 06 - open (Feast of the Holy Transfiguration)

Aug 08 - open

Aug 15 - open (Feast of the Holy Dormition)

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

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, several 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 a lending institution. 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.

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 so poor in our discipline at arriving at church on time? Especially 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.

Lecture on the Holy Land Monotheistic Faiths

For the past three years, Father Timothy has been providing seasonal lectures to pre-college and college students on the subject: “The Three Monotheistic Faiths of the Holy Land: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.” You are welcome to receive the recorded links to the lecture by request. Simply e-mail Father Timothy at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

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. Hardcopies will be mailed to you by request. We thank you for your faithful financial support of our parish and all who have made additional contributions to our Building Fund.

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

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

California COVID-19 By the Numbers

July 22, 2021

Numbers as of July 21, 2021

COVID-19 Cases

3,778,047 (+5,577)

Fatalities

63,695 (+31)

Vaccines Administered **43,214,612**

People Fully Vaccinated **20,927,113**

Ages of Confirmed Cases

494,938	2,171,794	713,171	395,854	2,290
0-17	18-49	50-64	65+	Unknown/Missing

Gender of Confirmed Cases

1,919,582	1,806,745	51,720
Female	Male	Unknown/Missing

Hospitalizations

Confirmed COVID-19		Suspected COVID-19	
2,405	575	344	40
Hospitalized	in ICU	Hospitalized	in ICU

Pastor's Sermon
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
July 25, 2021

Each time we pray The Lord's Prayer we conclude saying, "...lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." "Evil" is correctly translated: "The Evil One."

The most important thing concerning today's Gospel lesson is not the focus upon the presence or the power of evil in this world. Instead, our attention must be upon our choice to acknowledge 1) God's presence in our life, 2) knowing how He has equipped us with all that is necessary to be protected from evil, and 3) to be prepared with: discernment and good judgment against all the forces of evil.

In our day and age what was once "common sense," is now uncommon. Today, what is sensible is no longer common.

In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul writes: *Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness... (Ephesians 5:8b-11a)*. He then continues in saying, *Be very careful then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. (Ephesians 5:15-17)*. It is worth mentioning that this passage immediately precedes our epistle reading in the Wedding Sacrament where a man and a woman is instructed to submit to each other "out of the reverence of Christ," for husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her.

You and I are empowered and protected by the sign of the Cross. It is one of the means by which we guard ourselves from all forms of evil. We do not speak of this in terms of superstition. We recognize that there are unseen spiritual realities and must be cautious about what we find enticing, being very aware of

what can become controlling of our will to the degree that we become callous about evil and eventually disregard all that we know in our right mind to be good.

The perpetuation of a wrong “systemic behavior” can be difficult to overcome. This is because change is a struggle from the familiarity with what a person is accustomed to, or grown comfortable with. Very often, this leads to an acceptance of the conditions and behavior. “Well, that’s just the way I am!” becomes the rationale.

Notice that in the Gospel account of the demoniac in the “country of the Gergesenes,” after the men were freed from demonic possession there was fear among the herdsmen of the region. The gospel records: “They fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs... The city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood.” It was very apparent from this account that the forces of evil had pervaded and prevailed in the lives of the people of the region. This is because of delusion and deception, such that, what was good was seen understood to be bad.

What are the ways that we can protect ourselves from becoming callous and God forbid, reprobate in our lives: our way of thinking, and our behavior?

Our concern should be in guarding and protecting ourselves from all evil. This involves our vigilance in spiritual preventive care. We must remain alert by avoiding what are mentioned in the church’s prayers of exorcisms:

1. “the spirit of error” (lies, untruths, distortions, delusion, fraud)
2. “the spirit of guile” (devious and cunning behavior)
3. “the spirit of idolatry” (anything that replaces God in one’s life)
4. “of every uncleanness” (physical, intellectual and emotional)

One other aspect in the church’s prayers of exorcisms concerns evil “of every concupiscence”: In its broadest definition, concupiscence is any yearning of the soul for good. In its strict and specific meaning that pertains to the prayers of deliverance, concupiscence is a desire of one’s lower appetite contrary to reason. The object of the “appetite” is the gratification of the senses; whereas, the object of the concupiscence with regards to good aspirations pertains to the entire human

nature and consists in the subordination of reason to God, its supreme good and ultimate end.

On the other hand the lower appetite is of itself unrestrained, so as to pursue sensuous gratifications independently of the understanding and without regard to the good of the higher faculties. Hence desires contrary to the real good and order of reason may, and often do, rise in it, previous to the attention of the mind, and once raised, dispose the bodily organs to the pursuit and solicit the will to consent, while they more or less hinder reason from considering their lawfulness or unlawfulness. This is concupiscence in its strict and specific sense [definition from: A Dictionary of Greek Orthodoxy].

On the contrary: truth, honesty, good company, a clean and spiritually edifying environment atmosphere, being mindful and reminded of God's presence and positive reinforcement is the antidote to what is mentioned above and is the means of preventive spiritual care from harmful and averse behavior.

Prayer

O Master, Lord the Father of compassions and the God of all comfort, bless, sanctify, guard, strengthen, fortify, Thy servants from the Evil One and keep us vigilant in good works. Guide our President, all civil authorities, our armed forces and the leaders of all peace loving nations; protecting this nation, and every sovereign nation from all foreign invasions, and treasonous acts, granting us all peaceful times that we in their tranquility may lead a calm and peaceful life in all godliness and sanctity; for blessed is Thy Name and glorified is Thy Kingdom: of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages. A-men.

EOTHINON 5

الايوثينا5

TONE 4

اللحن 4

**THE DORMITION OF RIGHTEOUS ANNA, MOTHER OF THE
THEOTOKOS AND THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الرابع

إن تلميذات الرب تعلمن من الملاك الكرّز بالقيامة البهجة، وطرحن القضاء الجدي،
وخطبن الرسائل مفخراتٍ وقائلاتٍ: سُبِي الموتُ وقام المسيحُ الإلهُ، مانحاً العالمَ
الرحمةَ العظمى.

يا حَنَّةَ الْمُتَأَلِّهَةِ العَزمِ، لَقَدْ وُلِدَتِ أُمَّ الإِلهِ النَّقِيَّةِ، الَّتِي وُلِدَتِ الحَيَاةَ. فَلِذَا انْتَقَلَتِ الآنَ
بِمَجْدٍ، مَسِيرُورَةً، إِلَى النِّهَائِيَّةِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ، حَيْثُ سَكُنَى جَمِيعِ الفَرِحِينَ، مُسْتَمِدَّةً غُفْرَانَ
الْخَطَايَا لِلَّذِينَ يُكْرِمُونَكَ بِشَوْقٍ، أَيَّتُهَا الدَّائِمَةُ الغِبْطَةِ.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالحن الرابع

أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسلُ إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتى أنكم
بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظلِّ أجنحةِ مجدكم غير الهيولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجاثين
والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوات العلوية.

أَنَا فِي تَعْبِيدِنَا لِتَذْكَارِ جَدِّي المَسِيحِ، نَسْتَمِدُّ مَعُونَتَهُمَا، طَالِبِينَ عَنِ أَيْمَانِ نَجَاةِ الجَمِيعِ
مِنْ كُلِّ الضِيقَاتِ، وَنَصْرُحُ قَائِلِينَ: كُنْ مَعَنَا يَا اللهُ، يَا مَنْ مَجَدَّهُمَا كَمَا ارْتَضَى.

الرسالة

عَجِيبٌ هُوَ اللهُ فِي قَدِيسِيهِ. فِي المَجَامِعِ بَارِكُوا اللهُ.
فَصَلُّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ القَدِيسِ بولسِ الرِّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَّةِ.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، كَانَ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ ابْنَانِ، وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الجَارِيَّةِ وَالْآخَرُ مِنَ الحُرَّةِ. لَكِنَّ الَّذِي مِنَ
الجَارِيَّةِ وُلِدَ حَسَبَ الجَسَدِ، وَأَمَّا الَّذِي مِنَ الحُرَّةِ فَبِالمُوعِدِ. وَكُلُّ ذَلِكَ رَمْزٌ، لِأَنَّ هَاتَيْنِ
هُمَا العَهْدَانِ، أَحَدُهُمَا مِنْ جِبَلِ سِينَاءَ، الوَالِدِ لِلْعِبُودِيَّةِ، الَّذِي هُوَ هَاجِرٌ. لِأَنَّ هَاجِرَ
جِبَلِ سِينَاءَ فِي العَرَبِيَّةِ. وَلَكِنَّهُ يُقَابِلُ أُورُشَلِيمَ الحَاضِرَةَ، فَإِنَّهَا مُسْتَعْبِدَةٌ مَعَ بَنِيهَا.
وَأَمَّا أُورُشَلِيمُ العُلْيَا، الَّتِي هِيَ أَمْنَا جَمِيعًا، فَهِيَ حُرَّةٌ. لِأَنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: «أَفْرَحِي أَيَّتُهَا

الْعَاقِرُ الَّتِي لَمْ تَلِدْ. اِهْتَفِي وَاصْرُخِي أَيَّتُهَا الَّتِي لَمْ تَتَمَخَّصْ، فَإِنَّ أَوْلَادَ الْمُوحِشَةِ
أَكْثَرُ مِنَ الَّتِي لَهَا زَوْجٌ».

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس متى

في ذلك الزمان، لماء جاء يسوع إلى أرض الجرجسين، أستقبله رجلان خرجا من المقابر، وفيهما شياطين. وكانا شرسين جدا، حتى لا يقدر أحد أن يمر من تلك الطريق. فأخذا يصيحان: "ما لنا ولك، يا يسوع ابن الله؟ أجنث إلى هنا لتعذبنا قبل الأوان؟" وكان يرعى بعيدا من هناك قطيع كبير من الخنازير، فتضرع الشياطين إلى يسوع بقولهم: "إن طردتنا فأرسلنا إلى قطيع الخنازير." فقال لهم: "أذهبوا!" فخرجوا ودخلوا في الخنازير، فوثب القطيع كله من المنحدر إلى البحر وهلك في الماء. فهرب الرعاة إلى المدينة وأخبروا بما حدث وبما جرى للرجلين اللذين كان فيهما شياطين. فخرج أهل المدينة كلهم إلى يسوع. ولما رأوه طلبوا إليه أن يرحل عن ديارهم. فركب القارب وعبر البحيرة وجاء إلى مدينته.

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 (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة فى الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضوا. فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية