

**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](http://stmichaelvannuys.org)

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York

and Metropolitan of all North America

[www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)

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## **The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost and the Second Sunday of Luke**

The Hieromartyr Dionysios the Areopagite  
Martyrs Eleutherios and Rustikos

**Sunday, October 3, 2020**

**Tone 6; Eothinon 4**

### **Apolytikion for 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 for the Resurrection (Tone 4)**

Since thou hadst been instructed in uprightness thoroughly and wast vigilant in all things, thou wast clothed with a good conscience as befitteth one holy. Thou didst draw from the Chosen Vessel ineffable mysteries; and having kept the Faith, thou didst finish a like course, O Hieromartyr Dionysios. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

### **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 Theotokos (Tone 2)**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

## **Daily Readings**

THE EPISTLE (for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.  
Unto Thee will I cry, O my God.*

### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (4:6-15)**

Brethren, seeing that it is the God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, the same also shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the exceeding greatness of power is from God, and not from us. We are pressed on every way, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; smitten down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our mortal flesh. So, then, death is working in us, but life in you. But having in us the same spirit of faith, according to that which is written, "I believed, and therefore I spoke," we also believe, and therefore we also speak, knowing that the One who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up through Jesus, and will make us stand together with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the grace, which is multiplied through the thanksgiving of many, may abound to the glory of God.

THE GOSPEL (for the Second Sunday of Luke)

### **The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (6:31-36)**

The Lord said: "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most

High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

## **The Synaxarion**

On October 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Hieromartyr Dionysios the Areopagite.

### **Verses**

He Who said: Take up thy bed and walk, to the Paralytic,  
Said: Take up thy head and run, O Dionysios.

On the third, O Dionysios, thou takest thy severed head and runnest.

He is counted among the Seventy lesser apostles. Dionysios was studying in Egypt when Lord Christ breathed His last on the Cross, and the whole world was darkened for three hours. Then Dionysios cried out: ‘Either God the Creator of the world is suffering, or the world is ending.’ Returning home to Athens, he married a woman called Damaris and had sons by her. He was a member of the highest court in Greece, the Areopagus, and was always thereafter known as the Areopagite. When the Apostle Paul preached the Gospel in Athens, Dionysios was baptized with his whole household (Acts 17:34). Paul consecrated Dionysios bishop of Athens and he travelled widely with Paul, coming to know all the other apostles. He went especially to Jerusalem, to see the most holy Mother of God, and wrote of his meeting with her in one of his works, being present at her burial. After Paul suffered martyrdom, Dionysios went off to Gaul to preach the Gospel among the barbarians, accompanied by Rustikos, a priest, and Eleutherios a deacon, whom we also commemorate today. By their labors, many were turned to the Christian faith and Dionysios built a small chapel in Paris where he celebrated divine service. When he was ninety years old, Dionysios was seized and tortured for Christ, together with Rustikos and Eleutherios, until they were all beheaded in the year 96. His famous writings include: *On the Divine Names*, *On the Heavenly Hierarchies*, *On the Ecclesiastical Hierarchies*, and *The Mystical Theology*.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

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**October is “Youth Month” in the Antiochian Archdiocese**

## OFFERINGS

Holy Bread and wheat are being offered for the forty-day memorial in cherished memory of Emile F. Skaff, Sr. by the Skaff family with faith in our precious risen Lord's hopeful promise of eternal repose in the tranquility of God's eternal heavenly Kingdom, "where the saints repose." May he be remembered always with affection for his good nature and devoted service to God's Church and the community. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered this morning in memory of our beloved brother Fouad Azzam (+5 October, 2012). Memory eternal. Prayers are also offered for all who fell asleep in the Lord from the Azzam and Hallak families. Special prayers are offered for the health of Elias and Michael Azzam, Noelle Sabbah and Suzan Haddad.

Holy Bread is being offered for Michael Malouf on the occasion of his birthday (October 5), by his wife, Patricia Malouf. May God grant him many years!

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

by the Deeb family in loving memory of their mother and grandmother's eleven-year memorial, Marion Deeb (+2 October, 2010). Memory eternal.

for the continued health of Tere Chala by her sister, Anita Chala

By Father Timothy for the four-year memorial of His Grace,  
Bishop ANTOUN (+2 October, 2017) of thrice-blessed memory.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God,  
Josephine Nader Ferris (+19 September, 2021)

Included in our prayers throughout the month of October are those celebrating their birthday: Anthony Botezatu (10/1), Jonathan Rowihab (10/1), Madelyn Manning (10/02), Natalie Dawud (10/4), Mitchel Thabit II (10/4), Joyce Salamy (10/4), Nicole Dunphy (10/6), Michael Malouf (10/5), Ramez Hage (10/6), Tom Homsey (10/6), Dalila Bodden (10/07), Edna L. Deeb (10/8), Dr. Mitchel Thabit (10/8), Marisah Yazbek (10/8), Carrie Sadd Khouri (10/9), Bria McLinn (10/9), Christianna Randee Ababseh (10/10), Abigail Zaina Abughazaleh (10/10), Rami Jeries Madain (10,10), Glenn Terry (10/10), Leilaney Ababseh (10/11), John

Malouf (10/11), Mary Sarchizian (10/11), Jessica Abughazaleh (10/12), Samantha Abughazaleh (10/12), Tina Coury (10/12), Paulina Nassif (10/12), Michael Nassir (10/12), Ed Chaffin (10/13), Michael Martsof (10/13), Jed Dabbour (10/14), Colin Gantus (10/14), Mark Nassir (10/14), Elie Yazbek (10/14), Aliyah Ababseh (10/15), Steven Abughazaleh (10/15), Nicole Lee Nasser Dunphy (10/15), Gavin Scott (10/15), Sophie Scott (10/15), Bill Klimowych (10/17), Audrianna Hage (10/18), Vera Ababseh (10/19), Natalie Malouf (10/19), Dena Sophia Nicola Swain (10/20), Christina Rygiol (10/20), Ameera Caroleen Abughazaleh (10/20), Leila Salamy (10/20), Iain Patrick Blair (10/23), Leilah Yanni (10/23), Justin Charles Coury (10/24), Charmaine Darmour (10/27), Daniel Saidy (10/27), Sylvana Barney (10/28), Robert Homsey, Jr. (10/28), Natacha Yazbek (10/28), Keira Placeres (10/29), Ricky Nicola, Jr. (10/29), Alexandra Ibrahim (10/30), Dominique Ibrahim (10/30), Sherri Prewett Acri (10/30), Mallory Murr (10/31), Elaine Srour (10/31); and celebrating their wedding anniversary: Mark & Alexandra Nassief (10/4), Collyn & Lisa Nielsen (10/6), George & Janet Saade (10/6), Ramez & Rima Hage (10/7), Christian & Lisa Gascou (10/7), Leslie & Mark Henry (10/09), Robert & Amal Makhoul (10/10), Leilah & Daniel Lewin (10/11), Richard & Janice Khoury (10/20), Don & Lillian Meena (10/28), Frank & Margo Boyer (10/29), Father Minas & Presbyteria Nicole Sarchizian (10/29), Magued & Sahar Wassef (10/30). May God grant them all many years!

Included in our prayers for the departed during the month of October are:

William F. Cates +27 Oct. 1953  
 Elias Nassief +20 Oct. 1956  
 Della H. Cates +11 Oct. 1963  
 Richard Zraick, +13 Oct. 1974  
 Elsie Gallade, +4 Oct. 1978  
 Elsie Barkett Murray, +4 Oct. 1980  
 Cora May Spencer, +16 Oct. 1983  
 Frank G. Farris, +27 Oct. 1985  
 Peter Meena, +27 Oct. 1989  
 Elias Saadeh, +19 Oct. 1976  
 Nicholas Barakat, +16 Oct. 1992  
 Derek Jacob, +5 Oct. 1992

Guirguis Yostos, +22 Oct., 2004  
 Samia Malick, +8 Oct., 2006  
 Andrew Mittry, +Oct., 2007  
 Dn. Fadel Mubarak, +15 Oct., 2007  
 Michael Abughazaleh, +17 Oct. 2007  
 Evelyn Raies-Murr, +17 Oct. 2007  
 Philip Ryan, +18 Oct. 2007  
 Tove Kelsey, +3 Oct. 2008  
 Miriam Saadeh, +1 Oct., 2009  
 Yvonne Rihbany, +21 Oct. 2009  
 Josephine Nicola, +26 Oct., 2009  
 Eva Bandak, +10 Oct., 2009

Nafie Saba-Skaff, +14 Oct. 1995  
Sophie Yanni, +28 Oct. 1995  
Rose C. Farris, +1 Oct. 98  
Hanna Sweis, +4 Oct.  
Toufic Thabet, +17 Oct.  
Jacqueline M. Nasser, +12 Oct. 1999  
Frank Palmer, +16 Oct. 1999  
Ghazi Ababseh, +23 Oct. 1999  
Mitry Saadeh, +Oct. 13  
Tatsuo Kushida, +12 Oct., 1998  
Robert Jurado, +28 Oct. 1998  
Lillian Saliba Murr +12 October 2000  
Saide Simon, +13 Oct. 2000  
Ramza Aboud, +18 Oct. 2000  
Irene Hopkins, +26 Oct. 2000  
Nancy Lee Downing, +19 Oct. 2002  
V. Rev. Paul Romley, +26 Oct., 2003  
Mary Homsy, +31 Oct., 2003  
Marta Vaskis Erwin, +6 Oct., 2004

Marion Deeb, +2 Oct., 2010  
Ghalia Dares, +17 Oct, 2010  
Somaya Ghawi Rizik, +3 Oct., 2011  
Khazma Makhoul, +7 Oct., 2011  
Esshak Sayegh, +10 Oct., 2011  
Jack M. Malouf, +23 Oct., 2011  
Fouad Azzam, +5 Oct., 2012  
Adele Muamar, +4 Oct., 2013  
Antoine Maalouf, +29 Oct., 2013  
George Saba, +22 Oct., 2014  
Lucille Arakalian, +1 Oct., 2015  
May Kushida, +18 Oct., 2015  
Evonne George, +11 Oct., 2016  
Gretta Casalnuovo, +30 Oct., 2016  
Kathleen O'Dea, +23 Oct., 2017  
Esma Khoury, +31 Oct., 2017  
Iuliu Gota, +29 Oct., 2019  
Edward Brady, +7 Oct., 2020  
Bill Saba, +9 Oct., 2020

### **Memory Eternal!**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Live-streaming Sunday Orthros and Liturgy**

All of our scheduled church services on-line by logging on to: either **FaceBook** or **YouTube** via: [www.stmichaelvannuys.org](http://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; 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.

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

**TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT**

October, 2021

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of our Archdiocese:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! When our Savior sent out His twelve disciples to preach His Kingdom and minister His healing grace, He encouraged them with these words: “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matt. 10:16). This exhortation also applies to every generation of priests sent out by Christ to minister in His Church—all the more so today, as we face so many challenges to our faith. As our culture grows hostile and resistant to divine truth, we must balance shrewdness with innocence, uprightness with openness, and speaking the truth with listening in love.

Praise God that we have the expert help of our seminaries and theological institutions in preparing new priests for this challenge. These sacred schools bring together bright academic minds and deep pastoral experience to form new ministers capable of bringing the gospel faithfully and compassionately to every corner of our land. In addition to priests, they also prepare youth workers, church musicians, and Christian-education leaders. These men and women will then offer decades of service in our parishes, enlightening our minds, enriching our worship, and binding up our brokenness.

Each October, as part of “Youth Month and Seminary Month” in our Archdiocese, we ask for donations in support of our seminaries and theological institutions. We are grateful for the generosity shown by our faithful over so many years, and we ask you again to please give generously. Finally, please encourage our young people to pursue vocations in service of the Church, and especially our young men to follow callings to priestly service. May the Lord bless our efforts to train future clergy and church workers.

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a large, stylized cross symbol.

**+JOSEPH**

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

## The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost and the 3rd Sunday of Luke

Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

## Church Attendance

We request that everyone attending our church services wear face coverings due to the City policy. Church School in-person class sessions begin following Holy Communion. Care has been taken to ensure that our classrooms are safe for our children. Questions will also be answered by Father Timothy by e-mail at: [frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)

## Weekly Bible Study Tuesday (October 5)

Our next Bible Study will be held on Tuesday evening, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. We will be continuing our study of St. Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians (Chapters 13 and 14). A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out in an e-mail. Sessions are recorded for those unable to attend who may also request the link to the study. Plan to join us.

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

### Holy Bread Offering List

Oct 10 - open

Oct 17 - open

Oct 24 - open

Oct 31 - open

Nov 07 - Charmaine Darmour

### Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Feast Day Family Patio Lunch

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

## Upcoming Events

### St. Nicholas Cathedral Festival

Sunday, October 3, 2021



# ST. NICHOLAS FESTIVAL

ANTIOCHIAN  
ORTHODOX  
CATHEDRAL

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 3, 2021**

2300 W. 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90057

12:00PM - 9:00PM

**LIVE MUSIC & INTERNATIONAL DJ**



MAURICE RAAD



MAZEN KARAM



MICHEL ASHKAR

**FOOD**

MANAKEESH . KABOB . FALAFEL . SHAWARMA . SWEETS

**KIDS ACTIVITIES**

CARNIVAL GAMES . BOUNCY HOUSE . ETC

**SILENT AUCTION**

TRIP TO MEXICO FOR 2 . SPORTS COLLECTIBLES . TOYOTA CAMRY



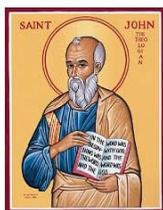
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ENTRANCE  
FEE**

Smoking in  
designated  
areas only

**Diocesan Fall Gathering** - October 8-10, 2021

Host: St. John Church; Orinda, California

To register on-line go to: <https://fallgathering2021.eventbrite.com/>



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

## Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

# 2021 Fall Gathering

October 8~10, 2021

With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH

# Schedule

### **Friday, October 8, 2021**

Welcome, Check-in/Registration 5:30 PM  
Vespers 6:30 PM  
Evening Social with Appetizers and Desserts

### **Saturday, October 9, 2021**

Morning Prayers/Breakfast/Check-in/Registration 8:00 AM  
Meetings 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM  
Lunch 1:00 PM

Optional Activities or Free Time: 2:00-4:30 PM

- Lafayette Reservoir Walk/Hike
- Shopping downtown Walnut Creek (on your own)

Vespers 5:00 PM  
Fellowship Dinner at St. John's - El Paisa (Mexican) 6:30 PM \$25.00 per person

### **Sunday, October 10, 2021**

Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM  
Light Lunch 11:30 AM

**St. Michael Feast Day Taco Lunch (outdoors)** - Sunday, November 7

Three kinds of meat: Chicken, Beef, Spicy Pork; grilled onions, rice, beans, tortillas, onions, cilantro, hot salsa, guacamole salsa, chips, jalapeños, radishes, lemons and Mexican salsa.

\$8/adults, \$5/11 years and younger; \$25/family of four or more



**St. Nicholas Cathedral Ladies Society Sweetheart Ball** - Saturday, November 27, 2021; Universal Hilton Hotel, Universal City; Social Hour, 6th p.m., Presentation, 7 p.m., \$195/person tickets: Lauren Malouf: 818-687-0406; [lmalouf@hchc.edu](mailto:lmalouf@hchc.edu)

### **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](mailto:bobbi_monsue@att.net). Your credit card will also be accepted for payment. Please come in and browse through our expanding selection of books, icons and gift ideas. Special orders may also be made by request.

### **Parish Council Nominations**

On Sunday, November 21, 2021 we will be holding a brief virtual and in-person Special Meeting of the Voting Membership solely for the purpose of receiving and accepting nominations for Parish Council members to be elected for there (3), three-year terms (January, 2021 to December, 2023). At this meeting the Nominations Committee will present their report and additional nominations will be open from the floor.

It is important that persons being considered be able to fulfill the commitment to serve. Therefore it is necessary that all nominees first be personally asked if they would accept nomination, and second be approved by the Pastor as someone who is qualified. The Parish Constitution prescribes that all nominees must be at least twenty-five years of age or older, have been a pledging members of the parish for at least one year and have fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Faith [Article VI, Sec. 2]. The nominees must also be committed in attending monthly Parish Council meetings held on the third (3rd) Sunday of each month.

We sincerely thank Regan Hines [ending his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]; Subdeacon Richard Ajalat [ending his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]; and Kris Thabit [completing his first (1st) term; able to be nominated]. Our one-year appointed members whose terms are expiring are: Adam Lamar [completing his first year appointed and a three-year

term], and Michael Mitchell [completing a maximum of eight consecutive elected and appointed years].

The Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: November 28 and December 5. Council members whose terms are unexpired are: Joe Ayoub, Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla, Julie Bitar, John Khouri, Deacon Andrew Monsue and Dan Raju. Charmaine Darmour is also completing her eleventh (11th) consecutive year as President of the Antiochian Women. All interested in serving on the Parish Council should contact: Connie Barilla, Nominations Chair at: [cmatthews46@yahoo.com](mailto:cmatthews46@yahoo.com) or speak with Father Timothy.

### **Bookstore Sales Continue With Delivery**

Contact Bobbi Monsue at: [bobbi\\_monsue@att.net](mailto:bobbi_monsue@att.net) for your special order of books, icons, jewelry, cards, lamps, censers, incense, and much more; especially for that special occasion or personal gift.

### **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](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)

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## **PASTORAL SERMON** **The Second Sunday of Luke** **By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig** **October 3, 2021**

Today's Gospel lesson is taken from our Lord's Sermon on the Mount. It includes what has been commonly known as The Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It is the basic principle of morality presupposing all that we share in common with all human beings. You and I – all of us want to be treated fairly, especially when it pertains to matters which involve our role in society

as citizens or members of an organization. Children can be very sensitive to the subject of fairness.

However, Christian morality only **begins** with the Golden Rule. Christian morality involves something more than the idea of fairness—and this is the point of today’s lesson. **Christian morality is anchored not only on the principle of fairness, it goes beyond it.**

The Lord said, “As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.”

Similarly, we hear the Holy Apostle Paul write: (Romans 12:9-21) Never pay back evil for evil... If it is possible, as much as (it) depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, *Vengeance is Mine, I will repay*, says the Lord. Therefore, *if your enemy is hungry feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink...* Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The entire context our Lord’s teaching in the Gospel proves that Christian moral ethics is not the same as Judaic moral ethics. Over and over again, Jesus’ words begin with the phrase: *You’ve heard it said... but I say unto you...*

In St. Matthew’s Gospel we hear the same lesson beginning with the words: *You have heard it said, “Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you: Love your enemies, [bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you], and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your heavenly Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:43-45)*

The Golden Rule heard in today’s Gospel is a case of simple justice—taught in the Old Covenant law: *an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth...* however, in the Lord’s teaching: returning deed for deed is placed in positive terms.

In Jesus' day, the Golden Rule was also taught in its negative form by Rabbi Hillel. Rabbi Hillel said: *do not do to others whatever you do not wish them to do to you*. Now, **why do you think that Jesus chose to express the Golden Rule in positive terms?**

The world we live in today is not very different from the mentality that preoccupied the thinking of people in Jesus' day. We see and hear a great deal of bad news each day and experience tremendous sadness to the point that we become numb and callous about what can be done to change things; to make a positive difference in our world; to correct situations. Things that go wrong seem to be the norm. There is a great deal of injustice and fairness doesn't seem possible.

As I was preparing for this message I gave a lot of thought about how difficult it is for children to understand this message in light of fairness. Being treated fairly is something that a child can become very sensitive to. It's because children need our love and attention.

Today's gospel lesson should not be interpreted in such a way to imply that Christians are pacifists. Any notion that practicing what is being taught in today's lesson strips a Christian of his/her dignity is totally false. Christians believe in justice and mutual respect. Consequently, is not unchristian to act or respond for the cause of what is just and right. **Instead, the important point is that we do not respond in the same manner as others do.** There are ways to properly respond in each and every circumstance. Our response, however, is not to act or behave in ways that cause us to be identified with those whose purpose is to do evil or to harm others; or in cases of war - to become what our enemy is.

The personal price of a positive response is always greater for the Christian. This is because as **Christians we do not understand and perceive the struggle or the battle in the same way as others do.** Hence it is necessary that a Christian recognize that **being a disciple requires personal sacrifices; and that this includes everything about our life: as a husband or wife, a father or mother, or even a person who may be single.**

We believe that Christ has overcome the world and all evil. His words recorded in St. John's Gospel are: "In the world you will have tribulation but take courage, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33b). Moreover, Christ triumphed

over the Evil One; “trampled down death,” transforming it to a means of life by His own Death. There is nothing more to be done or to think that what Christ has accomplished is somehow incomplete. What He has done was something that only He could do. His very words on the Cross were: “It is finished!” And so our battles, are battles of the Cross that each of us is called to accept. The Cross we bear, however, is the an armament for our salvation. It is called, “a weapon of peace.”

**Jesus taught the meaning of love by example. It is the principle of unconditional and sacrificial love. Christ’s Golden Rule is taking one’s neighbor upon oneself just as the Good Samaritan had compassion on the wounded Jew, a supposed enemy, and interrupted his own journey in order to help him.**

Christ Himself is the supreme model of the Good Samaritan seeking to bind and heal humanity’s wounds, and suffering persecution in the process. He voluntarily submitted to abuse, insults, beatings, betrayal and crucifixion by those whom He came to help! From the Cross He prayed: *Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.* Christ lived out His own teaching about love: *The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them (John 15:13).*

**There are those who think that the teachings of Christ are extremely difficult and that we would be foolish to even try to practice them. They are partly correct. The teachings of Christ are not only difficult . . . they are impossible for those whose life has not changed, whose life is always about “getting even.” A Christian believes that his or her life is living with a renewed nature; as one who has been forgiven and believes in the practice of forgiveness. As Christians we could not possibly live according to the teaching of Christ unless we lived in the spiritual realm of the grace of God.**

Christian morality is not a matter of human efforts trying to measure up to the highest standards ever imaginable, which would always end up in failure, but it is a way of life in union with Christ through which we receive forgiveness and spiritual power enabling us to live according to Christ’s teachings. **You and I cannot forgive others unless we know and have experienced God’s forgiveness for ourselves. Without this life will only be miserable. In fact without God’s forgiveness, there is only hell’s torment. In the same way you and I cannot be merciful if you and I do not know what it means to receive mercy. And finally no one will know how**

to love unconditionally unless he or she personally knows the full meaning of the Cross.

**The core of the Good News of Christ is not a set of ethical standards, but it is about living as a citizen of the Kingdom of God by being united to Christ.** Jesus lived, taught and acted in the fullness of the Holy Spirit in complete submission to the will of His Father - our Heavenly Father. The Apostles preached and served others by the power of the Holy Spirit as men and women who knew that they were loved and forgiven; some, like Peter and Paul, who personally experienced God's mercy in ways that were unimaginable. We live our lives by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Thus Christian morality cannot be viewed in isolation from our total life as baptized Christians, who are here and now, today and tomorrow: citizens of God's Kingdom, and live by the power of God's grace.

**EOTHINON 4**

الايوثينا 4

**TONE 6**

اللحن 6

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AND THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LUKE**

**HIEROMARTYR DIONYSIOS THE AREOPAGITE  
MARTYRS ELEUTHERIOS AND RUSTIKOS**

**طروبارية القيامة على اللحن السادس**

إنّ القواتِ الملائكية ظهرت عند قبرك الموقر، فالحراسُ صاروا كالأموات، ومريم وقفت عند القبر طالبةً جسدك الطاهر، فسببتَ الجحيمَ ولم تُجربَ منها، وصادفتَ البتولَ مانحاً الحياة، فيا من قام من بين الأموات، يا ربَّ المجدُّ لك.

تَعَلَّمَتِ الصَّالِحَاتِ وَاسْتَيْقَظَتَ فِي كُلِّ الْأَحْوَالِ، وَلَبَسَتِ النِّيَّةَ الصَّالِحَةَ كَمَا يَلِيْقُ بِالْكَهَنُوتِ، وَحَفِظَتِ الْإِيْمَانَ وَتَمَمَتِ السَّعْيِ. إِذْ اسْتَوْعِبَتْ مِنَ الْإِنَاءِ الْمُصْطَفَى الْأَسْرَارَ الْغَامِضَةَ الْوَصْفِ، يَا رَبِّيسَ الْكَهَنَةِ دِيُونِيسِيُوسَ. فَأَبْتَهَلْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نَفُوسَنَا.

**طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع**

أَيُّهَا الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرَ الْمُسْتَحَقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَنْتُمْ بِطَلِبَاتِكُمْ تَكْتَنُفُونَنَا بِظُلْمٍ أَجْنَحَةٍ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرَ الْهَيُولِيِّ، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِثِينَ وَالصَّارِخِينَ بِغَيْرِ فُتُورٍ، أَنْقَذُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَانِدِ، بِمَا أَنْتُمْ رُؤَسَاءُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

### قنِّدَاقُ السَّيِّدَةِ عَلَى اللَّحْنِ الثَّانِي

يَا شَفِيعَةَ الْمَسِيحِيِّينَ غَيْرِ الْمَخْذُولَةِ، الْمُتَوَسِّطَةَ لَدَى الْخَالِقِ غَيْرِ الْمَرْدُودَةِ، لَا تَعْرِضِي عَنِ أَصْوَاتِ طَلِبَاتِنَا نَحْنُ الْخَطَاةَ، بَلْ تَدَارِكِينَا بِالْمَعُونَةِ بِمَا أَنْتِ صَالِحَةٌ نَحْنُ الصَّارِخِينَ إِلَيْكَ بِإِيْمَانٍ: بَادِرِي إِلَى الشَّفَاعَةِ وَأَسْرِعِي فِي الطَّلِبَةِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ الْمُتَشَفِّعَةَ دَائِمًا فِي مَكْرَمِيكَ

## الرَّسَالَةُ

خَلَّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَانِكَ.  
إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُحُ إِلَهِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كُورِنْثُوسِ.  
يَا إِخْوَةَ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَمَرَ أَنْ يُشْرِقَ مِنْ ظُلْمَةِ نَوْرٍ، هُوَ الَّذِي أَشْرَقَ فِي قُلُوبِنَا لِإِنَارَةِ مَعْرِفَةِ مَجْدِ اللَّهِ فِي وَجْهِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ. وَلِنَا هَذَا الْكَنْزُ فِي آيَةِ خَرْفِيَّةٍ، لِيَكُونَ فَضْلُ الْقُوَّةِ لِلَّهِ لَا مِنَّا. مُتَّصِيفِينَ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، وَلَكِنْ غَيْرَ مُنْجَصِرِينَ. وَمُتَحِيرِينَ، وَلَكِنْ غَيْرَ يَا بَسِينِ. وَمُضْطَهَّدِينَ، وَلَكِنْ غَيْرَ مَخْذُولِينَ. وَمَطْرُوحِينَ، وَلَكِنْ غَيْرَ هَالِكِينَ. حَامِلِينَ فِي الْجَسَدِ كُلِّ جِينِ إِمَامَةِ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ، لِتُظَهَرَ حَيَاةُ يَسُوعَ أَيْضًا فِي أَجْسَادِنَا. لِأَنَّا نَحْنُ الْأَحْيَاءُ نَسَلُمُ دَائِمًا إِلَى الْمَوْتِ مِنْ أَجْلِ يَسُوعَ، لِتُظَهَرَ حَيَاةُ الْمَسِيحِ أَيْضًا فِي أَجْسَادِنَا الْمَائِتَةِ. فَالْمَوْتُ إِذَنْ يُجْرَى فِينَا، وَالْحَيَاةُ فِينَا. فَإِذَا فِينَا رُوحُ الْإِيْمَانِ بِعَيْنِهِ، عَلَى حَسَبِ مَا كُتِبَ "إِنِّي آمَنْتُ، وَلِذَلِكَ تَكَلَّمْتُ"، فَنَحْنُ أَيْضًا نَوْمِنُ وَلِذَلِكَ نَتَكَلَّمُ. عَالِمِينَ أَنَّ الَّذِي أَقَامَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعَ سَيَقِيمُنَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا بِيَسُوعَ، فَتَنْتَصِبُ مَعَكُمْ. لِأَنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ هُوَ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، لِكَيْ تَتَكَثَّرَ النِّعْمَةُ بِشُكْرِ الْأَكْثَرِينَ، فَتَزْدَادَ لِمَجْدِ اللَّهِ.

## الْإِنْجِيلِ

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ لوقا الإنجيليِّ البشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ.  
قالَ الرَّبُّ: "كما تُريدونَ أنْ يَفْعَلَ النَّاسُ بِكُمْ، كَذَلِكَ أَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ بِهِمْ\* فَإِنَّكُمْ إِنْ أَحْبَبْتُمْ  
الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَكُمْ، فَأَيَّةُ مَنَّةٍ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضًا يُحِبُّونَ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَهُمْ\* وَإِذَا أَحْسَنْتُمْ  
إِلَى الَّذِينَ يُحْسِنُونَ إِلَيْكُمْ، فَأَيَّةُ مَنَّةٍ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضًا هَكَذَا يَصْنَعُونَ\* وَإِنْ  
أَقْرَضْتُمْ الَّذِينَ تَرْجُونَ أَنْ تَسْتَوْفُوا مِنْهُمْ، فَأَيَّةُ مَنَّةٍ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضًا يَقْرَضُونَ  
الْخَطَاةَ لِكَيْ يَسْتَوْفُوا مِنْهُمْ الْمِثْلَ\* وَلَكِنْ، أَحْبَبُوا أَعْدَاءَكُمْ، وَأَحْسِنُوا وَأَقْرَضُوا غَيْرَ مُؤَمِّلِينَ  
شَيْئًا، فَيَكُونُ أَجْرُكُمْ كَثِيرًا، وَتَكُونُوا بَنِي الْعَلِيِّ. فَإِنَّهُ مُنْعَمٌ عَلَى غَيْرِ الشَّاكِرِينَ وَالْأَشْرَارِ\*  
فَكُونُوا رُحَمَاءَ كَمَا أَنَّ أَبَاكُمْ هُوَ رَحِيمٌ.

#### ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

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