

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
Archpriest Timothy Baclig, Pastor frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org
Rev. Fr. Minas Sarchizian, Assisting Priest fatherminas@gmail.com
Rev. Deacon Andrew Monsue armcopper@gmail.com
Subdeacon Richard Tamoush Tamoush.Richard@gmail.com
Subdeacon Magued Wassef wassefm@msn.com
Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Pastoral Assistant rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.com
Parish Council Chair - Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla cmatthews46@yahoo.com
Council Vice-Chair - Kris Thabit kthabit66@hotmail.com
Council Secretary - John Khouri johngkhouri@gmail.com
Council Treasurer - Britton McLinn britton@ikon-x.com

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of No. America (AOCWNA)

Chapter President - Charmaine Darmour cdarmour@sbcglobal.net
Choir Director - Art Danks artdanks1@yahoo.com
Church School Director - Lila Coudsy lcoudsy@aol.com
Youth Director - Cooper Rowe crowe31@gmail.com
Young Adult Director - Richard Ajalat rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org
Young Parents' Ministry - Brittney Ajalat brittneylee704@gmail.com
Faithtree Resources Exec. Director - Michelle Moujaes michelle@faithtree.org
Project Manager - Michael J. Malouf michael@jacksonia.com
Stewardship Chair - Richard Tamoush Tamoush.Richard@gmail.com
Capital Funds Campaign Chair - Ron Zraick ronaldzraick@gmail.com
Property Management Chair - Eric Nelson ericnelson2520@sbcglobal.net
Bookstore Manager - Bobbi Monsue bobbi_monsue@att.net
Golf Classic Chair - Fred Milkief milkief@aol.com
Webmaster - Dan Raju dan.raju16@hotmail.com
Charity Coordinator - Cindy Tamoush cindy.tamoush@gmail.com
Head Usher - Ramez Hage jeddo.ramez@gmail.com

The Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheese Fare)

The 42 martyrs of Amoria in Phrygia; Discovery of the Precious Cross and Nails by St. Helena; Venerable Fridolin, Enlightener of the Upper Rhine

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Tone 4; Eothinon 4

Apolytikion of 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 of our Patron the Archangel Michael (Tone 4)

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

Kontakion for the Sunday of the Last Judgment (Tone 1)

O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday of Forgiveness)

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Sing praises to our King, sing praises.
Clap your hands, all ye nations.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (13: 11-14; 4)

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not

in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

THE GOSPEL (for the Sunday of Forgiveness)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew
(6:14-21)**

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The Synaxarion – March 6

On March 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the 42 martyrs of Amoria in Phrygia; the discovery of the precious cross and nails by St. Helena; and Venerable Fridolin, enlightener of the Upper Rhine.

On this day, we make remembrance of the exile of the first-fashioned, Adam, from the Paradise of delight.

Verses

*Let the world mourn bitterly along with ages past;
As, by sweet eating, it hath fallen along with those who had fallen.*

It is the Sunday of Forgiveness, known also as Cheese Fare Sunday. Today's lesson from the Holy Gospel teaches us about forgiveness and fasting, and how both are crucial to our own return to Paradise. The divine Fathers also set the anniversary of the exile of Adam from the Paradise of bliss on this day, at the entrance of Great Lent, to show us by deed as well as word how great is the benefit that accrues to man from fasting and repenting; and, on the contrary, how great the harm that comes from destructive gluttony and from disobedience to the divine commandments. The sin of gluttony resulted in Adam and Eve's banishment from Paradise, because they disobeyed God by eating from the tree which He had forbidden them. The Church reminds us of this event to encourage us to return to that ancient glory and primeval happiness by means of fasting and obedience to God and His commandments.

By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, make us worthy of the delight of Paradise and have mercy on us, as Thou art alone the Lover of mankind. Amen.

A Note Regarding Holy Communion

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, *only* those who are members 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

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

by Alice Prewett for the safe travels of her son, Scott, Kit
and Mary Lou. May St. Michael protect them.

for the safe travels of Praneet Panga. May St. Michael be his pilot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March is "Women's Month" in the Antiochian Archdiocese

Reading the epistle this morning is: Charlotte Murr.

Today's ushers are: Debi Dodds and Nikki Malouf

**St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
of the San Fernando Valley**

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and all North America

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor
ftimothy@stmichaelvanuys.org

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

Dear St. Michael Church Family,

We are in a transition. St. Michael Church remains compliant with the regulations of The Los Angeles County Department of Health as of Friday, March 4, 2022. Face coverings in our services is strongly recommended indoors, but optional. However, we are still asking our choir, altar boys and children to continue to wear a face coverings at this time. The State of California is still requiring face coverings to be used in indoor K-12 school settings through March 11. Beginning on March 12 school operators may decide whether to continue the requirement. We must continue to remain sensitive to those among us, especially our senior parishioners, who are immune deficient and vulnerable to the virus that can be detrimental to their health.

The City is still requiring persons with a coronavirus infection to use a face covering in indoor and outdoor public settings — for ten (10) days after symptoms begin or after a positive test result. However, it is advisable that if you are ill to remain at home. All public transit, transportation hubs, all health care settings (including long term health care, adult and senior care facilities), and emergency centers continue to require face coverings.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation; praying that we may all have a healthy and spiritually rewarding Lenten Fast.

In Christ,

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig

Pastor

Zoom Meeting Virtual Bible Studies Will Resume in May

Our Weekly Bible Study will resume after Pascha. The link for the last recorded link and Study Guide of the Pastoral Epistle to Titus is also available by request. Contact: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Note: Today is the last and final day for consuming all meat, fish and dairy products. Tomorrow ("Clean Monday") is the beginning of the Great Fast.]

Forgiveness Vespers - immediately following "Coffee on the Patio"

Weekday Lenten Services

Monday, March 7th (the First day of Great Lent) – Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30 p.m.
[Live-streamed]

Tuesday, March 8th (the Second day of Great Lent) – Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30 p.m.
[Live-streamed]

Wednesday, March 9th – Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts, 6:30 p.m.
[Live-streamed]

Thursday, March 10th (the Fourth day of Great Lent) – Great Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6:30 p.m.
[Live-streamed]

Friday, March 10th – The Akathist Hymn, 1st stasis ("Madeyeh"), 6:30 p.m.

The 1st Sunday of Great Lent ("The Sunday of Orthodoxy")

Great Vespers - Saturday, March 12th, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 13th – Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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. Now is the time to place your order for your Holy Week Service Book.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and all North America

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor
frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

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

Dear St. Michael Church Family,

We all have much to still learn as we prepare to transition to our new church sanctuary, that we pray, will be achieved this year. There are several resources that you may or may not have known about that is available on our parish website. They are as follows:

a. Homepage slider #6 — “Building a Worshipping Community:” A five part slide presentation on the different parts of an Orthodox Church structure and its practical function liturgically.

b. Homepage slider #2 — Gallery Update: Church Sanctuary “Orthodox Church Architecture, Iconography and Hymnography” (20 Articles that help to understand Orthodox liturgical worship and the relationship between church architecture, iconography and hymnography (music); including a history of Orthodox Church structures in North America.)

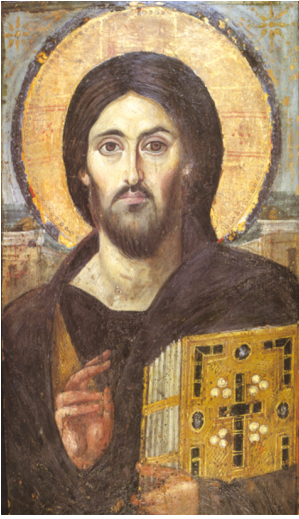
<https://www.stmichaelvannuys.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Articles-on-Orthodox-Architecture.pdf>

c. Homepage slider #3 — “Coming Out of Chaos:” A recent podcast produced by The Antiochian Men (AMEN) of the Antiochian Diocese of the Southeast; an interview reflecting upon the 39 years of the Holy Priesthood and comments on the distinct ministry of men as servants of God in the Church.

It is my sincere hope that you will explore these references as we thank God for all that He has accomplished in the many ministries of our parish and the hard work of our Founders, predecessors, and current parishioners who continue to provide us with a solid foundation for our growth.

In Christ

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
Pastor



Vespers for the Triumph of Orthodoxy

6:30 pm Sunday

March 13, 2022

St. Nicholas Cathedral

2300 W. 3rd Street • Los Angeles, California

Reception Will Follow Vespers

All the Faithful Are Invited to Bring and Bear Icons

Let us declare the Faith of the Apostles in Words and Images!



We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One.

*Therefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud unto Thee: Thou hast filled
all with joy, O our Savior: For Thou hast come to save the world.*

Upcoming Events

The Sunday of Orthodoxy Great Vespers - March 13
St. Nicholas Antiochian Cathedral (Los Angeles)

Diocesan Women Lenten Retreat: April 8-10, 2022
at Camp St. Nicholas; speaker: Fr. John Valadez of St. Timothy Church,
Lompoc, California; contact: jeanbaba68@gmail.com

St. Michael 30th Golf Classic: Monday, May 23, 2022 at
Wood Ranch Golf Club (Simi Valley) <www.woodranchgc.com>

Diocesan Parish Life Conference hosted by The Church of the
Redeemer (Santa Clara Marriott) — July 29 - July 3, 2022

Archdiocesan Clergy Institute — July 18-22, 2022

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: Please contact Father Timothy for Instructions.

Holy Bread Offering List

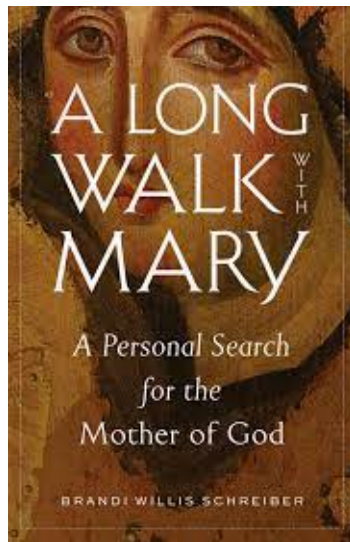
Mar 06 - open (Cheese Fare)
Mar 13 - Jeanette Skaff Omeisah
Mar 20 - open
Mar 27 - open
Apr 03 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

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

Attention Ladies:

Our combined Book Study with the ladies at St Luke Church has chosen the next book we will be reading... It's been recommended by other Antiochian Women's chapters who have ready Mary - As the Early Christians Knew Her -- they said this book is an excellent next step in developing knowledge of, and a relationship with our Most Holy Theotokos. The book chosen is: **A Long Walk With Mary** by Brandi Willis Schreiber. It is available through Amazon or Ancient Faith Publishing.



Also, go to: the Archdiocese website at:

https://antiochianprodsa.blob.core.windows.net/websiteattachments/AW-NAB%20--%20E-Bulletin%20--%20February_2022.pdf

There are study questions in the back of the book to spur our discussions. Our new **Book Study** continues throughout the month of March, via Zoom, although some are looking into a way to have some women meet in person and some be on Zoom at the same time. If nothing else, a few could gather around a screen at one house if they want the more in person experience. Most likely we will continue to meet on two Thursday evenings per month at 6:30 p.m. (taking into consideration feedback that we have received). Details with dates will be shared as the time gets closer. Please let me know if you'll be interested and able to participate. (Charmaine)

Our 2022 Pledge Forms Provided with this Bulletin

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2022 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. Each year a budget is prepared for membership approval at our Annual Meeting. May God bless us all in practicing good Christian stewardship.

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

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

The Lenten Fast

What is it? Why do it?
How does it fit the Benedictine Tradition?

Saturday, March 12 | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
St Michael Orthodox Church, Whittier
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of N. Am.
3333 Workman Mill Road † Whittier, CA 90601

www.StMichaelWhittier.org
StMichaelWhittier@gmail.com † 562.692.6121

Lunch provided † Donation Accepted
RSVP Requested

Presented by the Society of St Benedict at St Michael Church
with the blessing of Metropolitan Joseph & Bishop John

A Lenten Retreat

The V. Rev. Nabil Hanna
Dean, St Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral, Los Angeles

Understanding the “Rule” of the Great Fast

There are three parts of the fast:

1. **The pre-lenten season** includes the week of Cheese Fare (March 27 to March 6), when all meats are obtained from, with the exception of eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil, that may be consumed any day of the week. The last day of dairy products (“Cheese Fare”) Sunday, March 6th.
2. **“Clean Monday” begins the great Fast** (March 7) when all meat and dairy products are removed from our diet. “Meat” products pertain to all animals with a backbone. Note: The forty (40) days includes the five weekdays (Monday through Friday). Technically Saturday and Sundays are not part of Great Lent per se. These are days when the Divine Liturgy is served: Saturdays for the departed, and Sunday, celebrating Christ’s Resurrection. Both Saturdays and Sundays, however, are still considered a part of Great Lent; thus making the count of the days of fasting greater than 40. [In some communities, the fast is

relaxed (moderately) on the weekends, i.e., allowing for dairy and/or fish. However this is not the rule.] Because the Divine Liturgy is not served on the weekdays, the Vespertal Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts are served in the evenings, Monday-Friday. Wednesdays are the designated days in most parishes when the Pre-sanctified Liturgy is served. In the Russian Church, the weekday Pre-sanctified Liturgy is served on Wednesdays and Fridays. In the Byzantine Churches (Greek and Antiochian), Friday evenings are dedicated to the Service of the *Parakesis/Madeyeh* (Service of Intercessory Prayer) dedicated to the Protection of the All-holy Mother of God, the Theotokos—having its relevance to anticipating the Feast of the Holy Annunciation—that takes place during Great Lent (March 25th). If there is a “Feast Day” of recognition and importance to a community on a weekday of Lent, the Pre-sanctified Liturgy is served on that day. The Pre-sanctified Liturgy uses a second “lamb” (from a holy loaf of bread) that is consecrated during the Sunday Divine Liturgy of that particular week. It is put aside, and dried in a special container for the Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Liturgy of that week. The character and tone of the Pre-sanctified Liturgy is solemn and penitential, unlike the brighter celebration of the Liturgy on the weekends. Each of the five Sundays of Great Lent are dedicated to a particular commemoration: 1) The “Sunday of Orthodoxy” (the First Sunday of Lent) and the commemoration of the restoration of Icons in the year 787 AD, following the iconoclastic (the destruction of icons) era, 2) St. Gregory Palamas (the Second Sunday of Lent), 3) The Veneration of the Holy Cross (the Third Sunday of Lent), 4) The commemoration of St. John Climacus of Mount Sinai (the Fourth Sunday of Lent), and 5) The commemoration of St. Mary of Egypt (the Fifth Sunday of Lent). Two days (during the Fast) are special Feasts that allow for fish, oil and wine to be consumed: a) The Feast of the Annunciation (March 25), and Palm Sunday (this year on April 25). In some communities, i.e., in a Seminary, a special prescription for fasting is provided in order to provide for physical strength. For example, allowing fish, oil and wine on the second and fourth weekdays of the fast. This however, is a local rule and not a universal practice. The Church's Canon Law does not impose the fast upon people who require a specific diet for reasons of health, i.e., pregnant mothers; the elderly who are required to have more protein in their diet; persons that work jobs of hard labor.

Parents should also use good judgment with children, however, it is important that a family establish a private rule of fasting. It is very important to understand that fasting does not stand by itself as a spiritual discipline. It should be accompanied with regular prayer and almsgiving (good works). Consideration should also be made to one's activities that can be distracting to one's focus upon prayer, confession, and the the spiritual life. In preparation for any Liturgy abstinence from food and drink is the norm. For example, breakfast is not consumed on Sunday mornings, following a late light dinner on Saturday evening. For a Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, an early brunch or lunch is the norm before abstaining to receive Holy Communion for the Vesperal Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts.

3. The fast of Great and Holy Week (this year: April 18-22) stands outside of the forty days of Great Lent and is observed with the same rule as the forty days (above). Great and Holy Friday is a day of strict fasting - commemorating the Death of Christ. On Holy Friday, "dry eating is allowed;" the consumption of fruit, nuts, juice; or anything that is uncooked. This is the only day of the year when there a Divine Liturgy is not celebrated (i.e., Pre-sanctified Liturgy).

The other "seasons" of fasting include: The Fast of the Dormition ("falling asleep"/death) of the Virgin Mary: August 1-15, concluding on the Commemoration of the Dormition (August 15); the Fast of the Apostles: usually appearing in June (this year lasting for one day: June 28) concludes with the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul (June 29); and the Fast of the Holy Nativity: beginning on November 15 and concluding with the Feast of the Holy Nativity (December 25). There are also specific days of "strict fasting" ("dry eating") on the Commemoration of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist (August 29), and The Elevation of the Holy Cross (September 14).

Let us begin the fast with joy. Let us prepare ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our souls and cleanse our flesh. Let us abstain from passion as we abstain from food and pursue the virtues of the Spirit, which if we continue to long for, we shall be worthy to behold the most solemn Passion of Christ our God, and rejoice in spirit at His Holy Resurrection! [fourth stichera of Forgiveness Sunday Vespers]



**VIRGIN MARY LIFE-GIVING SPRING
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

The Archpriest / Econsoms
The Very. Rev. Father Paul Marji

Please Come Join Us

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, let us gather together after Pascha in Los Angeles to support the newest mission in the Diocese of LA and the West

**Virgin Mary Life Giving-Spring
Bakersfield, CA
www.virginmarybakersfield.org**

When: Saturday, May 7, 2022
6pm Great Vespers
7pm Dinner, 8pm Entertainment

\$100
Donation

Where: St. Nicholas Cathedral
2300 W. 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90057

EVENING PROGRAM

WELCOME – OSAMA DAWOOD
Treasurer, Virgin Mary Life-Giving Spring Church

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION – V. REV. FR. PAUL MARJI
Pastor, Virgin Mary Life-Giving Spring Church

DINNER

MASTER OF CEREMONIES – DANIEL ANDREWS
President, Virgin Mary Life-Giving Spring Church

REMARKS – V. REV. FR. JOHN FINLEY
Chairman, Dept. of Missions and Evangelism, Antiochian Archdiocese

VIDEO PRESENTATION

REMARKS – NABIL RABADI & RAMI FAHIL
Founding Members, Virgin Mary Life-Giving Spring Church

REMARKS – V. REV. FR. PAUL MARJI
Pastor, Virgin Mary Life-Giving Spring Church

BENEDICTION – V. REV. FR. NABIL HANNA
Dean, St. Nicholas Cathedral

ENTERTAINMENT

For tickets contact Danny Andrews (661) 331-0723 or George Hanoun (818) 923-0951 RSVP by April 24, 2022



Save The Date For:
The St. Michael
29th Annual Golf Classic
Honoring those who've served
Carl Andrews. Ameen "Babe" Mittrv and Emile F. skaff

COME HELP CONTINUE THE LONG-STANDING TRADITION OF
"GETTING OUT FOR THE DAY" BY PARTICIPATING IN OUR
ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC AND BBQ

MONDAY, MAY 23rd – WOOD RANCH GOLF CLUB:
12:00 Noon Shotgun Start

GOLFERS – or those who claim to be!!!!

Make up your own foursome or we'll pair you up.
Shotgun Start – 4 Golfer Scramble Format – 2 Mulligans –
Participation in Putting Contest
Closest to the Line – Team and Individual Awards – Raffles
Continental Breakfast – Box Lunch – Barbeque Dinner
Sodas – Water – Beer – and More!!!!
\$185.00 Per Player!



NON-GOLFERS

Unable to get out for the whole day?
Then join us later for an evening of fun and frolic!
Barbecue Dinner; Chinese Auction – Golf Ball Raffle – Door Prizes
\$50.00 each



For reservations or more information contact:
Don Meena (661) 623-0340 or donmeena@sbcglobal.net
Fred Milkie, Jr. (818) 535-4243 or milkief@aol.com
HOLE SPONSORSHIP
Michael Srour (818) 314-9363 or mcsrour@gmail.com

Pastoral Sermon
The Sunday of Forgiveness
March 6, 2022

Today's Gospel lesson makes clear that God's forgiveness is tied to our forgiveness of others. In other words, just as we are forgiven, we also understand that God's forgiveness has been granted to all sinners. Forgiving those who sin against us is therefore expected of us. The Lord's words uses the conditional "if" - *If you forgive men their trespasses... and if you do not forgive...* However, from God's standpoint: Forgiveness is a fact. We have all been forgiven.

It would probably be helpful for us to think if it in this way: God's forgiveness for you and me is of no consequence unless we personally know God's love for us, accept His forgiveness; are willing to forgive ourselves and are also willing to forgive others. God's forgiveness for you and me is of no consequence unless we partner with Him by desiring it for others, to the extent that we also make it a practice to forgive them.

We heard it clearly demonstrated in the Parable of the Prodigal Son two Sundays ago: We understood from the lesson that such a love and great mercy is something we know and experience because we have a conscience. Our struggle today is that we live in a time when many live their lives without much or any kind of conscience. Just about anything seems possible without facing any consequences. If you can make it happen there is very little stopping you from doing so! There are fewer boundaries today than we have ever known. Or, one could say, there are ways that you and I can more easily get out of things, especially if we have the means to do so.

However, last week, we were made aware that God's love - that is freely and impartially given is also a "tough love." It is not without ultimately facing "a day of judgment" (a day of reckoning) when you and I have to be accountable for our deeds and actions; accepting responsibility for ourselves.

In summary: The lessons of the "Pre-season of Great Lent," beginning with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, and the Sunday of the Last Judgment all call our attention to our actions and our willingness

to make the right choices: a) willingness to choose humility (as did the Publican), b) willingness to act upon a good conscience in facing the truth honestly (as did the Prodigal Son), c) a willingness to serve others (“the least of our brethren”) and so discover Christ in our brother, and d) a willingness to forgive others as God Himself forgave us. That is surely a lot! And if we dare to even do one of these four: choosing humility (the starting place of all virtue), return home to our Heavenly Father, practice the good deeds of serving others, or initiating the forgiveness of someone, we will aim to make Great Lent a meaningful personal experience and not just an annual exercise or ritual.

Rather than going through the “rite of forgiveness” as a mere ritual, let’s take this day seriously, let us examine our consciences, let us choose to behave in a way that is becoming of being Christian believers. Let us not take lightly the church’s practice (Christ’s commandment) of forgiving others.

We can do the same about our practice of fasting. What do we find in the instruction of today’s epistle lesson? ...*When you fast... do not look dismal, like the hypocrites ...that their fasting may be seen by men.* The point is: Great Lent is not a time for “wearing our religion on our sleeve.”

Today’s lesson concludes: *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...* Anyone’s treasure is something they cherish, protect, defend, or consider very important. It is of a personal interest and has a personal value. It is what matters to you and me. Our Lord’s words are very simple and clear: Find out where one’s treasure is and there you will know what really matters to them. But for us is it all about spending our treasure on what we consider we rightly deserve? Is it about making the most of what we think that we’ve rightly earned? Or is it recognizing that God is the source of all things and we are only stewards of what He has mercifully provided us?

In his letter to the faithful, Patriarch JOHN X wrote these words: “Lent is a means to surrender (the hardness of the body) to God’s abundant mercies. Through fasting, our compulsive and impulsive acts are extricated from the soul, so we may experience the warmth of love. Lent is the queen of virtues inasmuch as we purify our souls and wash them with pure waters of repentance, so we may bring peace and love to others. Love is the summit of all treasures. Fasting is a true expression of love, and the best tool that enables us to remove the passions of animosity and pride,

and sharpen the soul with charity and giving, and wash it with repentance and humility, so that the light of the resurrection of Christ may transfigure in it.

So as Patriarch JOHN suggests: think about fasting in terms of “being in love.” Being in love involves doing many things in ways that puts aside our physical appetite in order to prepare for being with one’s beloved. Our focus and attention is fixed upon the one we love. The result is: our devotion is made evident by the actions of many sacrifices. “Giving something up” becomes a very natural thing. In fact those things that are put aside are seen as inconsequential to the goal of being with the one we love. Insofar as Great Lent is concerned, the goal is: Christ and His Kingdom.

EOTHINON 3

الايوثينا3

STONE 3

الحن3

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESE FARE)

The 42 martyrs of Amoria in Phrygia; Discovery of the Precious Cross and Nails by St. Helena;
Venerable Fridolin, Enlightener of the Upper Rhine

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثالث

لتفرح السماويات وتبتهج الارضيات, لانّ الرب صنعَ عزاً يساعده, ووطئ الموتَ بالموت, وصارَ بكرَ الاموات, وأنقذنا من جوفِ الجحيم, ومنح العالمَ الرحمةَ العظمى

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالحن الرابع

أيها المتقدّمون على الأجناد السماويين, نتوسّل إليكم نحن غيرَ المستحقّين, حتّى أنكم بطلباتكم تكتفوننا بظلاً أجنحةً مجدكم غير الهولي, حافظين إيانا نحنُ الجاثين والصارخين بغير فتور, أنقذونا من الشدائد, بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوّاتِ العلوية.

قنفاق مرفع الجبن على اللحن السادس

أيها الهادي إلى الحكمة, وواهب الفهم والفتنة, ومثقف الجهال, ومجير المساكين, شدد قلبي وامنحه فهما أيها السيد, وأعطني كلاماً, يا كلمة الأب. فها أنا لن أمسك شفتي عن الصراخ إليك: يا رحيم, إرحمني أنا الواقع.

الرسالة

رتلوا لإلهنا رتلوا, يا جميع الأمم صفقوا بالأأيادي

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الى أهل رومية
يا اخوة، إنّ خلاصنا الآن أقرب إلينا مما كان يوم أمانا. قد تناهى الليل واقترب
النهار. فلنطرح عنا أعمال الظلام ولنلبس أسلحة النور. لنسلكن سلوكاً كريماً كما في
وضوح النهار: لا عريضة ولا سكر، ولا فجور ولا عهر، ولا خصام ولا حسد. بل
البسوا الرب يسوع المسيح، ولا تتشغلوا بالجسد لإشباع شهواته. تقبلوا ضعيف
الإيمان بغير مجادلة في الآراء. فمن الناس من يرى أن يأكل كل شيء، في حين أن
الضعيف لا يأكل إلا البقول. فعلى من يأكل من كل شيء ان لا يحتقر من لا يأكل
مثله، وعلى من لا يأكل من كل شيء أن لا يدين من يأكل من كل شيء، لأن الله
تقبله، ومن أنت حتى تدين خادم غيرك؟ فهو في عين مولاة يثبت أو يسقط، لأن الله
قادر على أن يثبتته.

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس متي

قال الرب: إن غفرت للناس زلاتهم يغفر لكم أبوك السماوي، وإن لم تغفروا
للناس زلاتهم، لا يغفر لكم أبوك السماوي زلاتكم. ومتي صمتم فلا تكونوا عابسين
مثل المرانين. فإنهم يكلمون وجوههم ليظهروا للناس أنهم صائمون. الحق أقول
لكم: إنهم قد أخذوا أجرهم. أما أنت، فمتي صمت، فادهن رأسك واغسل وجهك،
حتى لا تظهر للناس أنك صائم، بل لأبيك الذي في الخفية، وأبوك الذي في الخفية
هو يكافئك علانية.
ولا تكنزوا لكم كنوزاً على الأرض، حيث يفسد السوس والصدأ، وينقب السارقون
فيسرقون، بل اكنزوا لكم كنوزاً في السماء، حيث لا يفسد السوس والعث، ولا ينقب
السارقون فيسرقون. فحيث يكون كنزك يكون قلبك.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوي العقيدة الواحدة، إلا 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 في الخبز المقدس الذي يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا
رغبت أن تصبح عضواً في الكنيسة الارثوذكسية