

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

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The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost and the Second Sunday of Luke

The Apostle Ananias of the Seventy, the First Bishop of Damascus
and our Righteous Father Romanos the Melodist

Sunday, October 1, 2023

Tone 8; Eothinon 6

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 7)

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

Apolytikion for St. Ananias (Tone 3)

O holy Apostle Ananias, intercede with our merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

Apolytikion for St. Romanos (Tone 8)

Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O father Romanos; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)

*Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.*

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (6:16 to 7:1)

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them,” says the Lord, “and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear 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 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Apostle Ananias of the Seventy, first bishop of Damascus.

Verses

Ananias was stoned with stones by the godless,
Since he would in no wise give stones godly worship.

On the first day of October, Ananias was stoned.

“Ananias” is the Greek form of Hananiah, which is Hebrew for “Yahweh [God] is gracious.” In accordance with to God’s revelation (Acts 9:10-17), he baptized Saul (the Apostle Paul). Because of his courageous preaching of the Gospel, Ananias was stoned to death in the town of Eleutheropolis. His holy relics were taken to Damascus and later to Constantinople. Ananias’ famous house still exists today, located about one mile from the Cathedral of the Dormition of the Theotokos (al-Mariamiyeh) and the headquarters of the Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch in Damascus, Syria. The house is now the Chapel of Saint Ananias, located on the “Street Called Straight,” resting 16 feet below ground at the level of the Roman street in the first century.

On this day, we also commemorate our Righteous Father Romanos the Melodist, born in Homs (Emesa), Syria. He was, at first, a deacon in Beirut, and later served in the cathedral of Constantinople in the time of Patriarch Euthymios (490-504). Romanos was not well educated and was untrained in chanting, for which the more educated clergy ridiculed him. Romanos tearfully prayed to the Most-holy Theotokos, and she appeared to him in a dream, gave him a scroll, and told him to swallow it. The following day was the Feast of the Christ’s Nativity. Romanos took his place as a chanter at the ambo, and with an angelic voice sang the hymn “Today the Virgin,” the Kontakion of the Feast. All were amazed at both the content of this hymn and at the magnificent singing of the chanter. Having received the poetic gift from the Theotokos, Romanos composed over one thousand Kontakia. He joined the angelic choirs in the year 555.

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

October is “Youth Month” in the Antiochian Archdiocese

Reading the epistle this morning is Dimitri Moujaes

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered by the Deeb, Kouri and Najjar families in loving memory of their mother and grandmother’s memorial, Marion Deeb (+2 October, 2010). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered this morning by the Mitchell family with prayers for Andrew Mitchell, celebrating his twentieth birthday (September 30th). May God grant him many years!

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

for the continued health of Jake Thomas.

for the repose of the newly departed servant of God, John Apostolou (+27 September, 2023). Memory eternal.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Douglas Levy (+28 September, 2023) of Dayton, Ohio, beloved father of Adrienne Hines. Memory eternal.

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

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), Marisah Yazbek (10/8), AJ Katerelos (10/9), 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), Cathy Durrett (10/16), Bill Klimowych (10/17), Audrianna Hage (10/18), Vera Ababseh (10/19), Dena Sophia Nicola Swain (10/20), Christina Rygiol (10/20), Ameera Caroleen Abughazaleh (10/20), Michael Aldaya (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 Gasco (10/7), Leslie & Mark Henry (10/09), Robert & Amal Makhoul (10/10), Leilah & Daniel Lewin (10/11), Richard & Janice Khoury (10/20), Father Minas & Presbytera Nicole Sarchizian (10/29). 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	Guirguis Yostos, +22 Oct., 2004
Elias Nassief +20 Oct. 1956	Samia Malick, +8 Oct., 2006
Della H. Cates +11 Oct. 1963	Andrew Mittry, +Oct., 2007
Richard Zraick, +13 Oct. 1974	Dn. Fadel Mubarak, +15 Oct., 2007
Elsie Gallade, +4 Oct. 1978	Michael Abughazaleh, +17 Oct. 2007
Elsie Barkett Murray, +4 Oct. 1980	Evelyn Raies-Murr, +17 Oct. 2007
Cora May Spencer, +16 Oct. 1983	Philip Ryan, +18 Oct. 2007
Frank G. Farris, +27 Oct. 1985	Tove Kelsey, +3 Oct. 2008
Peter Meena, +27 Oct. 1989	Miriam Saadeh, +1 Oct., 2009
Elias Saadeh, +19 Oct. 1976	Yvonne Rihbany, +21 Oct. 2009
Nicholas Barakat, +16 Oct. 1992	Josephine Nicola, +26 Oct., 2009
Derek Jacob, +5 Oct. 1992	Eva Bandak, +10 Oct., 2009
Nafie Saba-Skaff, +14 Oct. 1995	Marion Deeb, +2 Oct., 2010
Sophie Yanni, +28 Oct. 1995	Ghalia Dares, +17 Oct, 2010
Rose C. Farris, +1 Oct. 98	Somaya Ghawi Rizik, +3 Oct., 2011
Hanna Sweis, +4 Oct.	Khazma Makhoul, +7 Oct., 2011
Toufic Thabet, +17 Oct.	Esshak Sayegh, +10 Oct., 2011
Jacqueline M. Nassir, +12 Oct. 1999	Jack M. Malouf, +23 Oct., 2011
Frank Palmer, +16 Oct. 1999	Fouad Azzam, +5 Oct., 2012
Ghazi Ababseh, +23 Oct. 1999	Adele Muamar, +4 Oct., 2013
Mitry Saadeh, +Oct. 13	Antoine Maalouf, +29 Oct., 2013
Tatsuo Kushida, +12 Oct., 1998	George Saba, +22 Oct., 2014
Robert Jurado, +28 Oct. 1998	Lucille Arakalian, +1 Oct., 2015
Lillian Saliba Murr +12 October 2000	May Kushida, +18 Oct., 2015
Saide Simon, +13 Oct. 2000	Evonne George, +11 Oct., 2016
Ramza Aboud, +18 Oct. 2000	Gretta Casalnuovo, +30 Oct., 2016
Irene Hopkins, +26 Oct. 2000	Kathleen O'Dea, +23 Oct., 2017

Nancy Lee Downing, +19 Oct. 2002
V. Rev. Paul Romley, +26 Oct., 2003
Mary Homsy, +31 Oct., 2003
Marta Vaskis Erwin, +6 Oct., 2004

Esma Khoury, +31 Oct., 2017
Iuliu Gota, +29 Oct., 2019
Edward Brady, +7 Oct., 2020
Bill Saba, +9 Oct., 2020
Rose Christensen, +12 Oct., 2021

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.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost and the 3rd Sunday of Luke
Our Righteous Mother Pelagia the Penitent of Antioch**

Saturday, October 7th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School Classes Begins Immediately Following Holy Communion

Are your child(ren) enrolled? Classes run for 45 minutes immediately following Holy Communion. Snacks are provided. We ask that parents not interrupt the classroom sessions.

Kindergarten, Grades 1-2 are in classroom 1; Grades 3-4 are in classroom 2; Grades 5-6, classroom 3; Jr. High and High School, at the top of the stairs. Our Church School Superintendent, Cooper Rowe's e-mail is: superintendent@stmichaelvannuys.org

Parish Council Nominations

On Sunday, November 19, 2023 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, 2024 to December, 2026). 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 Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla [having service eight (8) consecutive years, and this year as Council Chair; unable to be nominated or appointed]; Joe Ayoub [ending his second (2nd) term; unable to be nominated; able to be appointed]; Deacon Andrew Monsue [ending his second (2nd) term; unable to be nominated; able to be appointed]; and Judy Bitar [completing her first (1st) term; able to be nominated or appointed]. Our one-year appointed members whose terms are expiring are: Michael Mitchell [completing his first (1st) year appointed and able to be nominated], and Maria Safady [completing her second (2nd) year appointed; able to be nominated or appointed].

If necessary, the Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: November 26 and December 3. Council members whose terms are unexpired are: Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, John Khouri, Britton McLinn, Constantine Nasr, Michael Paraskevas and Kris Thabit. Charmaine Darmour is also completing her twelfth (12th) consecutive year as President of the Antiochian Women. All interested in serving on the Parish Council should contact: Kris Thabit, Nominations Chair at: kthabit66@hotmail.com or speak with Father Timothy.

Weekly Bible Study on the Book of Exodus Has Concluded

We will continue our Bible Study each Tuesday evening in another week. Recordings of previous Bible Studies are available by request.

Upcoming Events

[Note: [You may now access our Google Parish Calendar to your personal calendar.](#)

Simply go to: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWNoYWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmcj>

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Town Hall - Saturday, October 14, 2023
at 1 p.m. Discussion on State Housing Mandate

St. Nicholas Cathedral Festival - Saturday, Sunday, October 7-8, 2023
Saturday, 3-11 p.m., Sunday, 12 noon to 10 p.m.

Diocesan Fall Gathering - Friday-Sunday, October 13-15, 2023
Hosted by St. James Church (Modesto, California); Register at:
saintjamesmodesto.org

St. Michael Feast Day Celebration - Saturday, November 4
Potluck and "Game Night" following Great Vespers, 5 p.m.
Sunday, November 5 - Divine Liturgy and Parish Luncheon

Special Meeting of the Voting Membership
for Accepting Parish Council Nominations - Sunday, November 19

Church School Christmas Program - Sunday, December 10

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Oct 08 - Beverly Ansara
Oct 15 - The Ababseh family
Oct 22 - Marcelle Chaffin
Oct 29 - The O'Dea and Chala families

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Neil & Randa Alexander
The Ababseh family

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

Use of Assembly Ballroom

Use of our ballroom for wedding and anniversary receptions, family reunions, and selective special events are available for a donation to St. Michael Church based upon group size, maintenance and security fees. One such event, scheduled for Saturday, September 30th included 280 guests for a wedding reception and use of the kitchen for food warming. For more information, speak with Father Timothy.



St. Nicholas

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



Festival



WIN
2023
TOYOTA
CAMRY

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2023

2300 W. 3RD STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90057

\$5
ENTRANCE
FEE

SATURDAY: 3:00PM - 11:00PM

SUNDAY: 12:00PM - 10:00PM

CHURCH
TOURS

KIDS UNDER 10 - FREE

LIVE MUSIC & DJ



FIDEL FAYAD



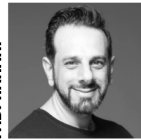
MICHEL ASHKAR



MICHEL ASLAN



CHARBEL BASSIL



FADI HAWANI

VENDORS AND RENTAL INQUIRIES, AD BOOK, DONATIONS: PLEASE CONTACT ZIAD SALEH AT 818-288-8716



BEER
+
WINE

MANAKEESH
KABAB . GYRO . TACOS .
FALAFEL . KIBBEH MASHWEYEH
SWEETS & MUCH MORE



KIDS ACTIVITIES
CARNIVAL GAMES .
BOUNCY HOUSE & MORE



2023 TOYOTA CAMRY
SILENT AUCTION
SPORT COLLECTIBLES

SMOKING IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY

POTLUCK & GAME NIGHT

FEATURING

SCRABBLE	BACKGAMMON
WHIST	CHESS/CHECKERS
BINGO	CONNECT FOUR
CORNHOLE	CARD GAMES
MONOPOLY	PING PONG
JEOPARDY! LIVESTREAM	
GUESS HOW MANY? JARS	



ST. MICHAEL FEAST
DAY
Celebration

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4
VESPERS AT 5PM
GAME NIGHT & POTLUCK TO FOLLOW

SCAN QR CODE TO BRING FOOD OR PLEASE
BRING A \$5/PERSON GOOD WILL OFFERING

SEE CARRIE KHOURI (310.617.6886),
COOPER, ROWE, OR CINDY TAMOUSH
(CINDY.TAMOUSH@GMAIL.COM) FOR MORE!



Stock Donation Option

A charitable donation of long-term appreciated securities, i.e., stocks, bonds and/or mutual funds that have realized significant appreciation over time is one of the best and most tax-efficient of all ways to support St. Michael Church. There are two main advantages: 1) Any long-term appreciated securities with unrealized gains (meaning they were purchased over a year ago, and have a current value greater than their original cost) may be donated to the church with the benefit of receiving a tax deduction for the full fair value of the securities—up to 60% of the donor's adjusted gross income; 2) since the securities/stock is being donated rather than sold, capital gains taxes from selling the securities no longer apply. And the more appreciation the securities have, the greater the tax savings will be. Please speak with or contact Ron Zraick, Chair of the Capital Funds Campaign Committee for more information at: <ronaldzraick@yahoo.com>.

"In-house" Caterers to Be Interviewed For Kitchen Use

Use of our Assembly Hall kitchen is available for qualifying caterers that accommodate our parish calendar and schedule. Our kitchen facilities can provide for a caterer's business operation on weekdays and weekends that do not impede our church activities. Speak with David Dawud for more information at: <realty@daviddawud.com>.

Our 2023 Pledge Form Provided with this Bulletin

Our parish depends upon the financial pledge commitments of its members in order to meet its monthly expenses. Our 2023 budget has included the increase of costs and was expanded to include additional maintenance expenses and security services for our new church sanctuary. A hardcopy of the Pledge Form is provided with this bulletin, is also available in the church narthex, or will be mailed to you by request.

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2023 form. An annual "Fair Share Contribution" is paid by St. Michael Church to the Archdiocese (\$50/adult; \$35/17 years of age or under). For more information and answer to questions, speak with Britton McLinn, Treasurer: <britton@stmichaelvannuys.org>.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Phone: 818-994-2313
Website: www.stmichaelvannuys.org

2023 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



DIocese OF LOS ANGELES AND THE WEST CAMPING PROGRAM

CAMP ST. NICHOLAS



WINTER CAMP 2024

IF IT IS POSSIBLE, AS MUCH AS DEPENDS ON YOU,
LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN.

ROMANS 12:18

AGES:

SEVENTH - TWELFTH GRADES

COST:

\$265

ARRIVE:

4:00PM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

DEPART:

10:00AM MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND FULL OF FRIENDSHIPS,
FAITH, FUN (IN THE SNOW, HOPEFULLY) AND THE
BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION.

REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 1, 2023 8:00 PM.

SIGN UP USING THIS LINK

[HTTPS://EVENTS.CIRCUITREE.COM/CAMPSTNICHOLAS/](https://events.circuitree.com/campstnicholas/)



Lake Balboa Town Hall - Saturday, October 14, 1 p.m.

Our Neighborhood Council has planned a Town Hall at St. Michael Church to discuss the State Mandate for the City of Los Angeles housing requirement; identifying areas where 4-5 story buildings may be constructed next to single family residences, including the neighborhoods west of the Van Nuys Airport. For more information speak with Subdeacon Richard Tamoush at: <tamoush.Richard@gmail.com> or visit the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council website at: www.lakebalboanc.org

PASTORAL SERMON **The Second Sunday of Luke** **By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig** **October 1, 2023**

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 6

الايوثينا 6

STONE 8

الحن 8

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

**THE APOSTLE ANANIAS OF THE SEVENTY, FIRST BISHOP OF
DAMASCUS, AND OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER ROMANOS THE MELODIST**

أبوليتيكيون القيامة بالحن الثامن

انْحَدَرْتَ مِنَ الْعُلُوِّ يَا مُتَحَنِّنٌ، وَقَبِلْتَ الدَّفْنَ ذَا الثَّلَاثَةِ أَيَّامًا، لِكَيْ تُعْتَقَنَا مِنَ الْآلَامِ، فَيَا حَيَاتِنَا
وَقِيَامَتَنَا، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

أبوليتيكيون للقديس حنانيا بالحن الثالث

أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ الْقَدِيسُ حَنَّانِيَا، تَشَفَّعْ إِلَى الْإِلَهِ الرَّحِيمِ أَنْ يُنْعِمَ بِغُفْرَانِ الزَّلَّاتِ لِنَفُوسِنَا.

أبوليتيكيون للقديس رومانوس بالحن الثامن

بِكَ حَفِظَ التَّمَثَالُ بِاخْتِرَاسٍ وَثِيقٍ أَيُّهَا الْأَبُ رُومَانُوسُ. لِأَنَّكَ حَمَلْتَ الصَّلِيبَ وَتَبِعْتَ الْمَسِيحَ، وَعَمِلْتَ
وَعَلِمْتَ أَنْ يُتَغَاضَى عَنِ الْجَسَدِ لِأَنَّهُ يَزُولُ، وَيُهْتَمُّ بِأُمُورِ النَّفْسِ غَيْرِ الْمَانَّةِ. فَلِذَلِكَ أَيُّهَا الْبَارُّ
تَبَنَّهُجُ رُوحُكَ مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالحن الرابع

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

قنداق السيدة على الحن الثاني

يَا شَفِيعَةَ الْمَسِيحِيِّينَ غَيْرِ الْمَخْذُولَةِ، الْمُتَوَسِّطَةَ لَدَى الْخَالِقِ غَيْرِ الْمَرْدُودَةِ، لَا تُعْرِضِي عَنِ أَصْوَاتِ
طَلْبَاتِنَا نَحْنُ الْخَطَاةَ، بَلْ تَدَارِكِينَا بِالْمَعُونَةِ بِمَا أَنَّكَ صَالِحَةٌ نَحْنُ الصَّارِخِينَ إِلَيْكَ بِإِيمَانٍ: بِأَدْرِي إِلَى
الشَّفَاعَةِ وَأَسْرَعِي فِي الطَّلِبَةِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ الْمُتَشَفِّعَةَ دَائِمًا فِي مَكْرَمِيكَ

الرسالة

(للأحد السَّابِعَ عَشَرَ بَعْدَ العَنَصِرَةِ)

صلوا وأوقوا الرَّبَّ الهَنَا.

اللهُ مِعْرُوفٌ فِي أَرْضِ يَهُودَا. إِسْمُهُ عَظِيمٌ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ القَدِيسِ بولس الرِّسولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كورنثوس.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، أَنْتُمْ هَيْكُلُ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ، كَمَا قَالَ اللَّهُ، "إِنِّي سَأَسْكُنُ فِيهِمْ، وَأَسِيرُ فِيهِمْ، وَأَكُونُ لَهُمْ إِلَهًا وَهُمْ يَكُونُونَ لِي شَعْبًا. فَلِذَلِكَ أَخْرَجُوا مِنْ بَيْنِهِمْ وَاعْتَرَلُوا" يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ "وَلَا تَمَسُوا نَجْسًا. فَأَقْبَلِكُمْ وَأَكُونُ لَكُمْ أَبًا وَتَكُونُوا أَنْتُمْ لِي بَنِينَ وَبَنَاتٍ، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ القَدِيرُ. " وَإِذْ لَنَا هَذِهِ المَوَاعِدُ، أَيُّهَا الأَحِبَّاءُ، فَلنَظْهَرُ أَنْفُسَنَا مِنْ كُلِّ أَدْنَسِ الجَسَدِ والرُّوحِ، وَنُكْمَلِ القَدَاسَةَ بِمَخَافَةِ اللَّهِ.

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ القَدِيسِ لوقا الأَنْجِيلِيِّ البَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: "كَمَا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَفْعَلَ النَّاسُ بِكُمْ، كَذَلِكَ أَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ بِهِمْ* فَإِنَّكُمْ إِنْ أَحْبَبْتُمْ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَكُمْ، فَأَيَّةُ مَنَّةٍ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الخَطَاةَ أَيْضًا يُحِبُّونَ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَهُمْ* وَإِذَا أَحْسَنْتُمْ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يُحْسِنُونَ إِلَيْكُمْ، فَأَيَّةُ مَنَّةٍ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الخَطَاةَ أَيْضًا هَكَذَا يَصْنَعُونَ* وَإِنْ أَقْرَضْتُمْ الَّذِينَ تَرْجُونَ أَنْ تَسْتَوْفُوا مِنْهُمْ، فَأَيَّةُ مَنَّةٍ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الخَطَاةَ أَيْضًا يَقْرَضُونَ الخَطَاةَ لِكَيْ يَسْتَوْفُوا مِنْهُمْ المِثْلَ* وَلَكِنْ، أَحْبَبُوا أَعْدَاءَكُمْ، وَأَحْسِنُوا وَأَقْرَضُوا غَيْرَ مُؤْمَلِينَ شَيْئًا، فَيَكُونُ أَجْرُكُمْ كَثِيرًا، وَتَكُونُوا بَنِي العَلِيِّ. فَإِنَّهُ مُنْعَمٌ عَلَى غَيْرِ الشَّاكِرِينَ وَالأَشْرَارِ* فَكُونُوا رُحَمَاءَ كَمَا أَنَّ أَبَاكُمْ هُوَ رَحِيمٌ.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

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