

**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 SABA, of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian  
Archdiocese of North America [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)  
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# **The Forefast and the Sunday before Holy Theophany The Apodosis (Leave-taking) of the Nativity of Christ**

Commemorating the Venerable Melania the Younger of Rome

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**Tone 5; Eothinon 8**

## **Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 5)**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

## **Apolytikion for the Holy Nativity of Christ (Tone 4)**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

## **Apolytikion of the Sunday after Holy Nativity of Christ (Tone 2)**

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

## **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 of the Holy Nativity of Christ (Tone 3)**

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as God.

## **Daily Readings**

### **THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday before Holy Theophany)**

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

### **The Reading from St. Paul's Epistle to Timothy (4:5-8)**

My child Timothy, be watchful in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the season of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, and I have guarded the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will reward me at that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved His appearing.

### **THE GOSPEL (for the Sunday before Holy Theophany)**

#### **The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to Mark (1:1-8)**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### **The Synaxarion – December 31<sup>st</sup>**

On December 31 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the Nativity of Christ, and we commemorate our Venerable Mother Melania the Younger of Rome.

On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.

### **Verses**

I honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin,  
who to be her protector was alone chosen.  
Thou art a carpenter's son, but also the brother of the Lord  
that built all with a word, O blest James.  
What shall I say, seeing that the Lord testifieth,  
as a man after Mine own heart, I have found David.

David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David's seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

By their holy intercessions, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. 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 . . .

for the continued health and well being of Ousama Zabaneh.

for the continued health and well being of Marcia Terry.

for Faith Wang, being Confirmed in Holy Orthodoxy this morning.  
May God grant her many years!

for the speedy recovery and continued health of Carol Steele.

for the repose of the newly-departed Khouriye Sally Howell (+26  
December, 2023), beloved wife of Father Stephen Howell, the retired  
Pastor of St. Athanasius Church in Sacramento, California.  
Memory eternal!

for the speedy recovery and continued health of Victor Clark  
his mother, Ioanna, and James Jones.

*Included in our prayers throughout the month of January are those celebrating their birthday: Eid Esshak Sayegh and Esshak Eid Sayegh (1/1), Steven Hage (1/4), Matthew Mittry (1/5), Sophia Sweis (1/5), Vanessa Coury (1/5), Darryl Thomas (1/6), Silva Aftimos (1/8), Mark Hannah (1/8), Nizar Shahwan (1/8), Peter Joseph Turk (1/8), Nancy Sawalha (1/9), Christian Ablahad (1/10), Marilee Ajalat (1/12), Yvonne Farr (1/12), Britton McLinn (1/12), Daniel Kneizeh (1/12), Robert Abraham (1/13), Diana Thabit (1/13), Michael Baclig (1/14), Marcel A. Haddad (1/14), Ghada Mansur (1/15), Violet Kavan (1/15), Abigail Elizabeth Abraham (1/15), Kevin Homsy (1/16), Joe Kence (1/16), Christopher Dodds (1/17), Kelly Meena (1/17), Brandon Terry (1/17), Mary Ann Coury (1/18), Justin Henry (1/18), Jeanice Gantus (1/20), Tonya Anne Grates (1/20), John Sweis (1/20), Albert Coury, Jr. (1/21), Christopher Matarese (1/21), Chad Manning (1/22), Sophia Rose Rygiol (1/22), Jeanette Tarbouche (1/22), Leslie Thabet (1/22), Christine Tarbouche (1/23), Riad Aftimos (1/24), Shereen Manning (1/24), Alek Milkie (1/24), Anastasia Panga (1/27), Dejan Bozic (1/28), Tere Shimizu (1/28), Rita Makhoul (1/30), Rami Yanni (1/30), Vanessa Murr (1/31); and those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Nicole & Robert Webster (1/1), Cathy & Joe Durrett (1/3), Adeeb & Nuha AbuGhazaleh (1/11), Walid & Isabel Kneizeh (1/17), and Cynthia & Nicholas Bibby (1/21);. May God grant them all many years!*

*Included in our prayers for the departed in the month of January are:*

Anna Saadeh +15 Jan. 1963  
Issac Zraick, +3 Jan. 1965

Samir Aftimos +24 Jan. 2001  
Shaker Nicholas Ayoub +Jan. 2002

*Sleyman M. Namay, +11 Jan. 1966*    *Aida Boutari +5 Jan. 2002*  
*Alice Gadallah +Jan. 1972*            *Nazira Abdelhak +9 Jan. 2002*  
*Dorothy Fadel +6 Jan. 1973*         *Albert Thomas +17 Jan. 2005*  
*Malakeh Saliba +14 Jan. 1975*       *Bill Shedd +17 Jan. 2007*  
*Fouad K. Mittry +20 Jan. 1975*       *Elinor Bourjaily +4 Jan. 2008*  
*Frieda George +17 Jan. 1976*         *Dr. John Abdun-Nur +31 Jan. 2008*  
*Marianne D. Halaby +27 Jan. 1997*   *Assad Dawud +25, Jan. 2010*  
*John Mansur +16 Jan. 1981*           *Lorna Shedd +27, Jan. 2010*  
*John G. Khouri +27 Jan. 1981*         *Assad Najjar +31 Jan. 2010*  
*Alphonse Bonjianne +9 Jan. 1982*     *George Coury +3 Jan. 2011*  
*Aziz Baskhyroun +Jan. 1985*          *Steven Peck +15 Jan. 2011*  
*George Sadd +13 Jan. 1985*           *Archpriest Antonios +23 Jan. 2011*  
*Sandra Pettit +17 Jan. 1985*          *Usguhi Sarchizian +9 Jan. 2012*  
*Michael D. Fayard +16 Jan. 1988*      *Robert Peck +19 Jan. 2012*  
*Mandouh Boutros +12 Jan 1989*       *Linda Simon +10 Jan. 2013*  
*Emile Boutari +30 Jan. 1990*          *Elia Qushair +12 Jan. 2013*  
*Shirley Jacobs +11 Jan. 1990*         *David James Satel +12 Jan. 2013*  
*Marie Aboud +Jan. 1990*               *Olga Judes Massou +2 Jan. 2015*  
*Lila Bastron +25 Jan. 1991*           *Norman Mamey +22 Jan. 2015*  
*Margaret Gantus +1 Jan. 1992*         *Vladimir Petrov +27 Jan. 2015*  
*Joseph Abrahms +21 Jan. 1992*       *Nelly M. Zacky +15 Jan. 2016*  
*Toofic Simon +12 Jan. 1996*           *Huda Elshaer +20 Jan. 2016*  
*Lucille T. Maddox +1 Jan. 1997*       *Louis Slemon +17 Jan. 2016*  
*Eva Meena +8 Jan. 1997*               *Arti Devadas +27 Jan. 2016*  
*Edward Deeb, Sr. +11 Jan. 1997*       *Areij Rabadi +19 Jan. 2017*  
*Haifa Ellis +29 Jan. 1997*             *Moses "Ricky" Namay +29 Jan. 2018*  
*Michael T. Haddad +1 Jan. 1998*       *Gregory Habib +18 Jan., 2019*  
*Phyllis Mittry +16 Jan. 1998*          *Nancy Farha +23 Jan., 2019*  
*Madeline Bediali +9 Jan. 1999*         *Jeff Gazale +4 Jan., 2020*  
*Saman Simon +23 Jan. 1999*           *Hanna Harb +3 Jan., 2020*  
*Eva Nichols +28 Jan. 1999*             *Dr. S. Jim Farha +17 Jan., 2020*  
*Helen Kirshy +18 Jan. 2000*           *Roger Hunt +28 Jan., 2020*  
*Matilda Zahlaoui +22 Jan. 2000*      *Jeff Matarese +14 Jan., 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.

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### **The Circumcision of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ and the Feast of St. Basil the Great (New Year's Day)**

Great Vespers, 5 p.m. with prayers for the New Year  
Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Day) – Orthros, 8:30 a.m.;  
Divine Liturgy,\* 10 a.m., with prayers for the New Year

### **THE GREAT FEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY)**

Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – The Eve of Theophany (*Paramon*)  
[observed as a strict fast day]  
Prayers of The Royal Hours: 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m. [Live-streamed]  
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great,\* 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – Festal Orthros, 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by  
The Great Blessing of the Waters and The Festal Divine Liturgy,\* 10 a.m.  
[Live-streamed]

### **The Sunday after Holy Theophany and The Synaxis of John the Baptist**

Saturday, January and 6<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.  
Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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<b>Calendar for:</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
First Day of Great Lent	March 18	March 03	February 23
Holy Pascha	May 05	April 20	April 12
Western Easter	March 31	April 20	April 05
Feast of Theophany	Saturday		January 6, 2024
Meat Fare Sunday	Sunday		March 10, 2024
Feast of the Annunciation	Monday		March 25, 2024
Feast of the Ascension	Thursday		June 13, 2024
Pentecost	Sunday		June 23, 2024
Feast of the Nativity	Wednesday		December 25, 2024

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His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Prot. no.:** 486/2023

**Nativity 2023**

Reverend Hierarchs, Priests and Deacons, Esteemed members of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees, Beloved Sons and Daughters of our Antiochian Archdiocese of North America,

On this blessed occasion, I recall the familiar phrase we hear in the Advent prayers:

***“Christ is born, glorify Him!”***

It is the Church’s call to us since the beginning of the Nativity Fast. We remember it to keep the question alive: How do we glorify Christ? Present in our minds, the answer remains clear: we glorify Him through our actions, our lives, and our conduct. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). Remember, the answer depends on each person’s readiness and response to this divine calling.

Many believe that Christ calls us to be good and nothing more. However, our Orthodox Christian faith teaches us that Christ came for us, and became man, not merely to make us good but to adorn our nature with His divinity. Good deeds are necessary, not as an end in themselves, but as the path to conform to Christ, striving for divine perfection.

Christian theology has succinctly summarized the theology of the Incarnation since the second century with the phrase: “God became man so that man might become God.” Our Lord took unto himself what was not His original nature to clearly show us that it is possible for us to forsake our sinful nature. He opened the heavens and descended to us, teaching us to open the gates of our hearts and forgiveness of sins, offering mercy to our brethren through the likeness of His love toward us.

My prayer for you in these blessed days is that may you always be prepared to receive the birth of Christ within you, to be a warm manger for Him, and to be blessed by His constant presence within you. May He increasingly mold you into His likeness day by day.

May God bless your days and your lives, and may everyone taste the peace of His Nativity.

Wishing you a blessed festal season and a new year filled with His blessings, I remain,

Yours in the Incarnate Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

**+SABA**

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church School Recess

Church School is currently in a Christmas recess. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2023; the Sunday after Holy Theophany.

### Your Cooperation is Appreciated

In order to close our 2023 financial records in a timely manner all checks to be recorded for the previous year, dated: December 31, 2023 must be turned in to the Church Office by Sunday, January 7, 2024. Please be sure that your check is properly earmarked. Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2024 form (provided on our parish website: <https://www.stmichaelvanmichaelvannuys.org/donate/>). Your pledge or tithe supports the church's day-to-day operating expenses, which, like our personal expenses, are expected to increase in 2024. Thank you in advance, for your commitment. May God grant you and your family enjoy a healthy and prosperous New Year.

### Annual Parish Meeting, Report Booklet

The Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. In the best interest of time, a Report Booklet is being prepared for distribution to our membership prior to the Annual Meeting. All Council officers, Standing Committees and Subsidiary Organizations are reminded that their single page reports are due next Sunday, January 7, 2024 in order to be compiled and printed in time for distribution on January 21, 2024.

**December is "St. Ignatius Month." Learn more about The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch by going to: <https://tracking.etapestry.com/t/45600408/1617337071/99007878/0/53535/?x=037b6e90>**

Reading the epistle this morning is: Michael Srour

**Parish Council Meeting** – Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.

## **2024 Council Officers Elected**

The Executive Officers of 2024 were elected on Monday, December 11, 2023: Kris Thabit, Chair; Constantine Nasr, Vice-Chair; Michael Mitchell, Secretary; Britton McLinn, Treasurer.

## **Zoom Meeting Virtual Bible Study Resumes**

**Our Bible Study with Father Timothy** — will resume on Tuesday, January 9th at 7 p.m. A Zoom link will be provided in the weekly parish e-mail. Each study is limited to one hour. An “Orthodox Bible Study” provides a broad and complete study of the full context of Holy Scripture (Old and New Testament) It is a comprehensive approach to understanding God’s Word from Holy Tradition that includes: The Apostolic writings, Church Councils, the Canonical Texts, Patristic Sources, Liturgical Texts of Services and the experience of saints who have given testimony through their life as witnesses of the faith through the centuries.

## **Church Offering Options**

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.

## **Building Funds Capital Funds Campaign**

As we nearing the end of 2023 we should begin thinking of our tax benefits when filing our Tax Return for this year. One of the few benefits the IRS has left us is Charitable Contributions. We ask that you prayerfully consider donating to the St. Michael Church Building Fund. There is still much to complete in our new Temple and additional Sponsorships available. There are many ways to donate which include a direct donation, donating stocks or securities or matching donations to name just a few. Please contact Ron Zraick, the committee chairman at [ronaldzraick@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldzraick@gmail.com) with any questions you may have.

## Sanctuary Chairs Available for Sponsorships

Sponsorships of the solid oak upholstered seats are available: \$300/chair, or \$3,000 for a “gang-tied” row of ten that form a pew. Each seat includes a book pocket (front and back) beneath the seat, and a vinyl kneeler. Twelve custom high chairs are also available for choir sponsorship seating (\$350).



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## 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=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmcj>

Sixth Installation of Iconography (The altar *Platytera*)  
December 27 to January 4

Young Adult Winter Retreat, January 12-15, 2024  
“Building Relationships Through Christ”

Speaker: Rev. Fr. George & Khouriye Miray Katrib

Registration: <https://submit.jotform.com/232980702097157>

Los Angeles Area Fellowship Dinner — Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch  
Sunday, January 21, 5:30 p.m. (Beverages), 6:30 p.m. (Dinner)

Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership, Sunday January 28, 2024

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Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York and all North America

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor  
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*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things,  
at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (II Corinthians 9:8)*

Dear Members of St. Michael,

We are at the end of the calendar year and our Parish Council is preparing to provide us with our 2024 Annual Budget. A parish cannot solely rely upon the income of Sacramental offerings because we would not be able to meet our month-to-month expenses based upon anticipating baptisms, weddings, or funerals that takes place each year. Nor can we adequately pay for our ongoing property maintenance without the shared responsibility and the help of volunteers of our membership. Our parish is able to provide its clergy and facilities, the prayer services of the church and its Sacraments because of our faithful parishioners who help to financially support the salaries and the operational costs of our church property.

We are again asking everyone to prayerfully consider making a reasonable annual financial pledge to our parish for the New Year. We look forward, by God's grace, for continued growth in the future. We are also very grateful for the commitments of those who have provided us with contributions to complete the construction of our new church sanctuary. We encourage others who have not done so to prayerfully consider doing the same. One of our goals is to remain debt free. We are anticipating the completion of the church in the New Year. Additional information will be provided at our Annual Parish Meeting at the end of January.

May you and your family enjoy God's continued blessings as we prepare to celebrate the Great Feast of Holy Theophany.

In Christ,

Subdeacon Richard Tamoush

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

### 2024 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

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

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622  
Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York and all North America

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Michael Church,

Christ is born!

*"Prayer does not equip us for greater work - Prayer IS the greater work."* Oswald Chambers

We live in a "get-fixed-quick" kind of world and daily personal prayer can be challenging. Do you have a personal daily prayer rule? Are you successful in maintaining a practice daily prayer?

I am very pleased to announce that *Faithtree Resources* has initiated providing us with a tool to help us in our daily prayer discipline. Join members of our parish, as well as a fellowship of Christians world-wide, who are hungry to grow in their personal prayer discipline and relationship with God.

You can sign up for more information about **The Encounter**, an initiative that helps us pray regularly and grow in our personal prayer disciplines of our Orthodox Church at [faithtree.org](http://faithtree.org).

I have been personally involved in the development of this tool developed by *Faithtree Resources* and encourage your being connected.

May the joy of the Feast with God's heavenly peace carry us through the New Year with St. Michael, protecting us from all harm.

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig  
Pastor

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**The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch  
Los Angeles Area Fellowship Dinner**

with

**Roger David  
North American Chair**

**Sunday, January 21, 2024  
5:30 p.m. Social (no host bar)  
6:30 p.m. Dinner**

**Phoenicia Restaurant  
343 N. Central Ave.  
Glendale 91203  
(818) 956-7800**

**\$75 per person**

**Please join us for dinner and an evening of fellowship with  
current and prospective members of The Order.**

- Roger David will update us on the good works of The Order.
- Irene Basdakis, Director of FOCUS Southern California, will share a short presentation on the rewarding activities of FOCUS in our area.
- One of our founding members will be honored in a special tribute.
- Bring a family member or friend to learn more about our beloved organization!
- Valet parking is available (\$15 fee).

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Attending: \_\_\_\_ Total (@ \$75 ea): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to *Order of St. Ignatius* and mail to:

Concetta Smarius  
3750 Newhaven Road  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
(213) 700-0229

[concettasmarius@yahoo.com](mailto:concettasmarius@yahoo.com)

**THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST AND  
THE LEAVE-TAKING (APODOSIS) OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**  
VENERABLE MELANIA THE YOUNGER OF ROME

**أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللحن الخامس**

لِنُسَبِّحُ نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَنَسْجُدُ لِلْكَلِمَةِ، الْمُسَاوِي لِلآبِ وَالرُّوحِ فِي الْأَزَلِيَّةِ وَعَدَمِ الْإِبْتِدَاءِ،  
الْمَوْلُودِ مِنَ الْعَذْرَاءِ لِخَلَاصِنَا، لِأَنَّهُ سُرَّ بِالْجَسَدِ أَنْ يَعْلَوْ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ، وَيَحْتَمِلَ الْمَوْتَ،  
وَيُنْهَضَ الْمَوْتَى بِقِيَامَتِهِ الْمَجِيدَةِ.

**أبوليتيكيون ميلاد المسيح باللحن الرابع**

مِيلَادُكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْهِنَا قَدْ أَطْلَعَ نَوْرَ الْمَعْرِفَةِ فِي الْعَالَمِ، لِأَنَّ السَّاجِدِينَ لِلْكَوَاكِبِ، بِهِ  
تَعَلَّمُوا مِنَ الْكُوكَبِ السُّجُودَ لَكَ يَا شَمْسَ الْعَدْلِ، وَأَنْ يَعْرِفُوا أَنَّكَ مِنْ مَشَارِقِ الْعُلُوِّ أَتَيْتَ،  
يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

**أبوليتيكيون الأحد بعد عيد الميلاد باللحن الثاني**

يَا يَوْسُفُ، بَشَّرَ دَاوُدَ جَدَّ الْإِلَهِ بِالْعَجَائِبِ الْبَاهِرَةِ، لِأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَ بَتُولًا حَامِلًا. فَمَعَ الرُّعَاةِ  
مَجَّدْتَ، وَمَعَ الْمَجُوسِ سَجَّدْتَ، وَبِالْمَلَائِكَةِ أَوْجِي إِلَيْكَ. فَابْتَهَلُ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ  
نَفُوسَنَا.

**طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع**

أَيُّهَا الْمُنْقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرِ الْمُسْتَحَقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَنْكُمْ  
بَطْلِبَاتِكُمْ تَكْتَنُفُونَنَا بِظُلْمِ أَجْنَحَةِ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الْهَيُولِيِّ، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِئِينَ  
وَالصَّارِحِينَ بِغَيْرِ فِتْوَرٍ، أَنْقَذُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَانِدِ، بِمَا أَنْكُمْ رُؤَسَاءُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

**قنذاق عيد ميلاد المسيح باللحن الثالث**



اليَوْمَ البَتُولُ تَلِدُ الفَائِقَ الجَوْهَرَ، والأَرْضُ تُقَرِّبُ المَغَارَةَ لِمَنْ هُوَ غَيْرُ مُقْتَرَبٍ إِلَيْهِ.  
المَلَائِكَةُ مَعَ الرُّعَاةِ يُمَجِّدُونَ، والمَجُوسُ مَعَ الكُوكَبِ فِي الطَّرِيقِ يَسِيرُونَ، لِأَنَّهُ قَدْ  
وُلِدَ مِنْ أَجْلِنا صَبِيٌّ جَدِيدٌ، الإِلهُ الَّذِي قَبْلَ الدَّهْورِ.

## الرسالة

ميراثك وبارك شعبك ربُّ يا خلصُّ.

إلهي، أصرِّحْ ربُّ يا إلهي.

تيموثاوس إلى الثانية الرسول بولس القديس رسالة من فصل

(4:5-8)

المُبَشِّرِ عَمَلٍ وَاعْمَلْ، المَشَقَّاتِ وَاحْتَمَلْ شَيْءٌ كُلٌّ فِي تَيَقُّظٍ، تيموثاوس وُلدي يا  
وقَدْ \*أَقْتَرَبَ قَدْ انْجَلَالِي وَوَقْتُ عَلَيَّ السَّكِينِ أُرِيقُ فَقَدْ أَنَا أَمَا \*خَدَمْتِكَ وَأَوْفٍ  
يَبْقَى وَإِنَّمَا \*الإِيمَانِ وَحَفِظْتُ، شَوْطِي وَأَتَمَمْتُ، الحَسَنَ الجِهَادَ جَاهَدْتُ  
،العَادِلِ الدِّيَانَ الرَّبِّ اليَوْمِ ذَلِكَ فِي بِهِ يَجْزِينِي الَّذِي العَدْلِ إِكْلِيلِ لِي مَحْفُوظًا  
أَيْضًا ظُهُورُهُ يُحِبُونَ الَّذِينَ جَمِيعَ بَلْ، فَقَطْ إِيَّاي لَا

## الإنجيل

والتلميذ البشير الإنجيلي مرقس القديس بشارة من شريف فصل

(1:1-8) الطاهر

مُرْسِلٌ هَاءَ نَدَا "، الأنبياءِ فِي مَكْتُوبٌ هُوَ كَمَا، اللهُ ابْنُ المَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ إنجيلِ بَدْءِ  
طَرِيقِ أَعْدَاؤِ: البَرِّيَّةِ فِي صَارَخَ صَوْتٌ \*قَدَامَكَ طَرِيقَكَ يَهِيئُ وَجْهَكَ أَمَامَ مَلَائِكِي  
التَّوْبَةِ بِمَعْمُودِيَّةٍ وَيَكْرِزُ البَرِّيَّةِ فِي يُعَمِّدُ يوحنا كَانَ \*قَوِيْمَةً سَبْلَهُ وَاجْعَلُوا الرَّبَّ  
فَيَعْتَمِدُونَ وَأورشليمَ اليَهُودِيَّةِ بَلَدِ أَهْلِ جَمِيعِ إِلَيْهِ يَخْرُجُ وَكَانَ \*الْخَطَايَا لِعُفْرَانِ  
،الإِبْلِ وَبَرِّ يَلْبَسُ يوحنا وَكَانَ \*بِخَطَايَاهُمْ مُعْتَرِفِينَ الأَرْدُنِّ نَهْرٍ فِي مِنْهُ جَمِيعُهُمْ  
إِنَّهُ: قَائِلًا يَكْرِزُ وَكَانَ \*بَرِّيًّا وَعَسَلًا جَرَادًا وَيَأْكُلُ، جِلْدَ مِنْ مَنطِقَةِ حَقْوِيهِ وَعَلَى  
\*حِذَائِهِ سَيْرٌ وَأَحْلُ أَنْحَنِي أَنْ أَسْتَحِقَّ لَا وَأَنَا، مَنِّي أَقْوَى هُوَ مَنْ بَعْدِي يَأْتِي  
.الْقُدْسُ بِالرُّوحِ فَيُعَمِّدُكُمْ هُوَ وَأَمَّا، بِالمَاءِ عَمَدْتُكُمْ أَنَا

## ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

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