

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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Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; Venerable Brannock of Braunton

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Tone 6; Eothinon 9

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Feast of Holy Theophany (Tone 1)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Synaxis of John the Baptist (Tone 2)

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Who had been proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who taketh away the sin of the world, and granteth us the 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 Feasts (Tone 4)

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from St. the Acts of the Apostles (19:1-8)

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the Kingdom of God.

THE GOSPEL (for the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to John (1:29-34)

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, 'After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me.' I myself did not know Him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

The Synaxarion – January 7th

On January 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; and Venerable Brannock of Braunton.

On this day, we celebrate the Synaxis (Gathering) of the holy and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On the same day is also commemorated the translation of his most precious and holy right hand unto the city of Constantinople.

Verses

How shall this tongue of mine now praise thee, O Preacher,
Whom Christ's tongue calleth greater than all the earthborn?
The famous Forerunner's memorial is the lot of the seventh.

Because John's main role in his life was played out on the day of Theophany (Epiphany), the Church from earliest times dedicated the "day after" to his memory. Among the Gospel personalities who surround the Savior, John the Baptist occupies a totally unique place by his roles in baptizing the Messiah and in baptizing people for repentance. John prepared himself in the wilderness of the desert for 30 years for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people. John was of such moral purity that, in truth, he could be called an angel (messenger) as Holy Scripture calls him rather than a mortal man. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, the Baptist is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. John differs from all other prophets especially in that he had that privilege of being able, with his hand, to show the world Him about Whom he prophesied. As the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord—whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets—John concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. He bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity at the Savior's Baptism. By the intercessions of Thy Forerunner, O Christ our God, have mercy on 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.

GLOSSARY: Troparion (tro-pah-ree-on); *plural*, Troparia: A brief poem in accentual metre, expressing the theme of a feast. Kontakion (kon-tah-kee-on); *plural*, Kontakia: A special kind of Troparion that expresses the teaching of a Feast. It summarizes and applies the meaning of a feast of day. Orthros (Or-thros): The word literally means *early morning*. It is the name of the service, which by some has been called *Matins*, and still by others, *Lauds*, though it does not correspond exactly to either of the Western Services. Eothinon (ee-oh-thee-non): meaning – *pertaining to the dawn*. They are the eleven assigned readings of the Gospel during the Orthros Service, pertaining to the eleven appearances of our Lord to His Disciples after the Resurrection. Synaxis (see-nax-sees) “the gathering or coming together” as it pertains to a celebration of a commemoration or feast. Following a major Feast a “Synaxis” commemorates the “co-star(s)” of the Feast, i.e., following the Feast of the Presentation of Christ (Ss. Simeon and Anna), following the Feast of the Birth of Christ (the Holy Virgin Mary), following the Feast of Holy Theophany (St. John the Baptist), etc. Synaxarion (see-nax-sah-ree-on) the summary of a Feast, describing a historical significance and meaning of a commemoration.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread for the Feast of Holy Theophany was offered by Michael & Mary Ann Mitchell with prayers for their family and in loving memory of their departed loved ones.

Holy Bread is being offered this morning by Ron & Kathy Zraick in memory of Ron’s father, Isaac Zraick (+3 January 1965). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered and the coffee hour hosted this morning in loving memory of Jack Samara (+18 November, 2023), by the members of his family, with prayers offered for their departed loved ones: Jack Ramzy Nakleh Samara, Nakleh Yacoub Samara and Mary Issa Zananiri Samara. Memory eternal.

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

for the healing and continued recovery of Ron Zraick

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Mary Tannous Ababseh (+16 December, 2023), beloved wife of Nayif and children:

Issa, Charlie, David, Christine and their families.

Memory eternal.

for the repose of the newly-departed Khouriye Dina Bahou (+2 January, 2024), beloved wife of the Archpriest Antony Bahou, mother of their son, Elias, and the newly-departed Elena Bahou (+29 November, 2023), beloved daughter and sister; of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church (San Diego). Memory eternal.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

[Note: Wednesdays and Fridays are observed as days of fasting]

The Leave-taking and Sunday after the Great Feast of Holy Theophany (Epiphany)

Saturday, January 13 – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 14th – Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Bread Offerings

The word *prospora* (*PROS-fo-rah*) or *prosporon* (*PROS-fo-ron*) means “offering”, and is a round loaf of leavened bread also known as altar bread used in the preparation of Holy Communion by the priest. In our church, a list of families making weekly offerings is posted in the Sunday bulletin. Dates are selected with specific prayer intentions (such as, memorials, feast days, etc.). Holy Bread offerings are open to anyone in the church who may desire to prepare a Holy Bread offering for specific Sundays, even if someone may be previously scheduled. The calendar scheduling of bread offerings is only to ensure that someone will be making an offering for each Sunday of the year. A list of names for which the bread is being offered should accompany the Holy Bread offering. The list should be turned in to Father Timothy by Friday preceding the Sunday Liturgy. Names of the living and departed should be listed; however, the names of the deceased should be marked with a cross (+) at the top of the list. The list should also indicate persons who are not Orthodox by a parenthesis or [brackets]. This is because the commemorations of Orthodox Christians of our communion are made with the bread particles, and the non-Orthodox are prayed for without use of the bread particles. Forms for prayer lists are provided in the narthex of the church. Monetary offerings for prayer are applied towards the needs within the altar, such as, wine, incense, candles, flowers, etc. A request for baked Holy Bread to St. Michael Church is \$25 earmarked: “Holy Bread.”

The “Service of Preparing the Offering” or *Proskemide* (*Pros-ko-mee-DEE*) is said at the Table of Preparation prior to the Divine Liturgy. **It is especially appropriate that families making offerings make an effort to properly prepare themselves to receive Holy Communion, including arriving at church by the start of the Liturgy if not at the beginning of the *Proskemedia*.** Finally, we should all bear in mind that the *Eucharist* (our *thanksgiving* offering) is made “on behalf of all and for all” as heard within the prayers of the Divine Liturgy.

The “Service of the Five Loaves” (*artoclasia* [*ar-to-kla-SEE-ah*] in Greek; *ighribniyyah* [*ih-rib-NEE-yah*] in Arabic) is prayed in the church during a special Feast on behalf of those commemorating their Patron and celebrating their “Name Day.” It is a day in which we honor respective saints as “patrons” – whose lives are set before us as examples; emulating Christ by their witness, and whose prayers and intercessions we call upon.

Calendar for:	2024	2025	2026
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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School Classes Resume Today following Holy Communion

Annual Parish Meeting, and Report Booklet

All Parish Council Annual Reports are due today. All Officers, Standing Committees, Subsidiary Organization Presidents, reports of the Choir and Church School, and minutes of the voting membership meetings should be turned in to Father Timothy for publishing with our financial reports. In the best interest of time, a booklet of all of our reports will be distributed to

our voting membership on Sunday, January 21 for in preparing for our Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024.

Virtual Parish Council Meeting – Monday, January 15th, 6 p.m.

Today is the Deadline for all 2023 Contributions and Donations

All checks received after today (January 7, 2024) will not be applied to your 2023 statements even if they are dated on December 31, 2023.

Thank you for your cooperation for helping us to close our books for 2023.

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2024 form (provided with this bulletin). All parishioners who are at least 18 years old and self-supporting should complete a new form for each new year. All information will remain strictly confidential. Your pledge or tithe supports the church's day-to-day operating expenses, which, like our personal expenses, are expected to increase in this year. Thank you in advance, for your commitment. May God grant you and your family enjoy a healthy and prosperous New Year.

A Christian steward offers gifts to God as a child of faith rather than a Hired servant. Children of God make offerings to God as an expression of authentic love, whereas, hired servants simply fulfill legalistic duties. Christian stewardship is the manifestation of our love for God through the offering of time, talent, and treasure to Him, through Christ's Holy Church. By this offering of love a Christian steward extends the healing experience of Christ's Church through her ministry.

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.

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 _____

House Blessings

Father Timothy has begun scheduling the blessing of homes. Please phone (818/219-3761) or e-mail him at: <frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org> should you have a preference of a day or time. Father Minas may also be contacted at: 818-376-0049 <fatherminas@gmail.com>. If possible, it is best to plan a time when everyone in your household is at home. Father's visit is primarily for the purpose of prayer and to answer any questions you may have regarding our Faith and practice. Priority is being provided for our members in new homes and the new members of our parish. Also, please understand that Father would like to visit as many homes in your area on the same day as time would allow. While visits to your home and house blessings may occur at **any day of the year** with a few exceptions, Father will be scheduling many blessings of homes up until the time for Great Lent (Meat Fare Sunday: March 10th).

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Jan 14 - the Deeb family

Jan 21 - open

Jan 28 - open

Feb 02 - open (Feast of the Presentation of Christ)

Feb 04 - open

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

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.



**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).

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

DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES & THE WEST TEEN SOYO NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2023 | VOLUME 10



St. Spyridon

St. Spyridon, a beloved Orthodox saint, was born in 270 in Cyprus and was known for his piety. He married Irene and later became Bishop of Trimythous. In 325, he countered Arius' arguments and explained the doctrine of the Holy Trinity using a Brick. The brick burst into flame, water drips, and dust remains in his hand, proving that there is only one God in the Holy Trinity. St. Spyridon received the name "Wonderworker." He is also known as the "walking saint" because the slippers which clothe the feet of his relics wear out each year from his travels to help people, and are replaced each year on his feast day. These slippers have been known to work miracles through the prayers of St. Spyridon.

PLC SAVE THE DATE



Registration is open for the PLC as well as the Bible Bowl and Oratorical Festival. More info can be found at <https://antiochianevents.com/la>

WHAT IS TRUST?



Make sure to apply by January 31. More information can be found at teensoyo.org/trust

SOYO CHAPTER OF THE MONTH



The Teen SOYO Chapter of the Month is St. Luke's in Garden Grove CA! This month their SOYO gathered for ice skating as well as painting the Nativity story on their classroom windows! May God continue to guide them in the building of their fellowship!

Continue to tag @dlawsoyo for a chance to be featured on Instagram and in future Teen SOYO Chapter of the Month spotlights!

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@DLAWSOYO

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 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).



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>

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

Teen Winter Camp — February 16-19, 2024 (Camp St. Nicholas)



Save the Date!

Join us for the Consecration of our new church, presided by His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA; Saturday-Sunday, October 5-6, 2024.

Pastoral Sermon

By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor
The Sunday after Holy Theophany

When do New Year resolutions fail? Why do they fail? What does the Feast of Holy Theophany teach us?

Being decisive is important to getting anything done. But it is only the start of initiating an action, starting over, or trying again. So why do we seem to always fail? It is because deciding to do something is not enough. For many, a new action may last for a period of time before it gets old, or we get tired and slip back to what we've been familiar with, or have been doing for a long time. And we give up!

The Feast Holy Theophany brings us renewal. In the Revelation of John (21:5) we hear the Lord say, "I am making everything new!" He did not say, "I am making new things." He did not make a mistake or violate His own principles. He fully entered our world and filled it with His divine presence to renew it! And the Feast we are now celebrating is His call for us to be renewed.

The Feast of Holy Theophany also provides us with illumination. However, it begins with our repentance—the full acceptance of responsibly saying "I've been wrong." It is then and only then that something new can really begin. To be resolute without illumination and repentance is self-serving. For many, that may be the goal. For the Christian, however, it is not only "I" who matters.

The Feast of Holy Theophany is also called the Feast of Light. Light illumines. It also reveals. If we are afraid of light and are more comfortable in darkness, we kid ourselves into thinking that change can come. We may also, in fact, not be ready for change.

Believing in all that Christ has come to do in order to save us—even from ourselves, can be the greatest challenge for you and I. We must desire with all of our heart, mind and soul to seek purification from sins with sincere repentance; even forgiving ourselves if necessary; or at least begin to seek knowing what we must rid ourselves from in order to be illumined by the Light of Christ.

In St. John's Gospel we hear: "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." (John 3:19-21)

No one of us would admit that we intend to do evil things or delight in what is evil. It may also be difficult for us to think of wanting to "let [our] light shine before men that they may see [our] good deeds and praise [our] Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Would that not be prideful? What did Jesus mean in saying that?

Jesus also said (in the same section of St. Matthew's Gospel beginning with verse 14): "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

Wait a minute: Isn't Jesus "the Light of the world?" Yes, He is! Well then, who am I to think of myself as "the light of the world?"

In his epistle St. John says: "God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all." He goes on to say, "If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not put the truth into practice. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin." (I John 1:5-7) Notice that St. John's words teach us that there can be no separation in our relationship to each other, if we walk in Christ's light and have united ourselves with Him. It's like a candle that is lit by a one that is already aflame. We share in being the light of the world by bearing the Light of Christ.

In Chapter Two, St. John becomes more explicit. He says, "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him."

Finally, renewal will be prevented if we continue to hold on to what we must completely let go of. God's forgiveness is something we can count on. Can He count on us to do His will and walk in His light?

May the Feast of Light, Holy Theophany, the full revelation of the Holy Trinity, illumine us in heart, mind and soul, that we may, with the fear of God, in faith and love, shine brightly with God's radiance!

Christ is in our midst!
He is and ever shall be!

THE SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN

NEW-MARTYR ATHANASIOS OF ATTALIA; VENERABLE BRANNOCK OF BRAUNTON

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن السادس

إنَّ القواتِ الملائكية ظهرت عند قبرك الموقر، فالحراسُ صاروا كالأموات، ومريم وقفت عند القبر طالبةً جسدك الطاهر، فسببت الجحيم ولم تُجرب منها، وصادفت البتولَ مانحاً الحياة، فيا من قام من بين الأموات، يا ربَّ المجدِّ لك

طروبارية الظهور على اللحن الأول

باعتمادك يا ربُّ في نهرِ الأردن، ظهرت السجدة للثالوث، لأنَّ صوتَ الآب تقدَّم لك بالشهادة، مسمياً إياك ابناً محبوباً، والروح بهيئة حمامةٍ يؤيدُ حقيقة الكلمة، فيا من ظهرت وأنرت العالم، أيها المسيح الإله المجدُّ لك.

تذكَّارُ الصديقِ بالمديح، أمَّا أنتَ أيُّها السابقُ فتكفيك شهادةُ الرَّبِّ، لأنَّكَ ظَهَرْتَ بالحقيقةِ أَشْرَفَ مِنْ كُلِّ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، إِذْ قَدْ اسْتَأْهَلْتَ أَنْ تُعَمِّدَ فِي الْمَجَارِي، مَنْ كَرَزُوا هُمْ بِهِ، وَمِنْ ثَمَّ إِذْ جَاهَدْتَ عَنِ الْحَقِّ مَسْرُوراً، بَشَّرْتَ الَّذِينَ فِي الْجَحِيمِ بِالْإِلَهِ الظَّاهِرِ بِالْجَسَدِ، الرَّافِعِ خَطِيئَةَ الْعَالَمِ، وَالْمَانِحِ إِيَّانَا الرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسلُ إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتَّى أنكم بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظلِّ أجنحةٍ مجدكم غير الهبولى، حافظين إيانا نحن الجاثين والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القواتِ العلوية.

قنداق على اللحن الرابع

اليومَ ظَهَرْتَ لِلْمَسْكُونَةِ، يَا رَبِّ، وَنورُكَ أَشْرَقَ عَلَيْنَا، نحن الذين نمدحك بمعرفةٍ قائلين: لقد أتيتَ وظهرتَ، أيُّها النور الذي لا يذنى منه.

الرسالة

يفرحُ الصديقُ بالربِّ. إستمع يا الله لصوتي

فصلٌ من أعمالِ الرُّسُلِ القديسين الأَطْهَارِ

فِي تِلْكَ الْإِيَّامِ حَدَّثَ إِذْ كَانَ أَبْلُوسُ فِي كُورِنْثُوسَ، أَنَّ بُولُسَ اجْتَازَ فِي النُّوَاجِي الْعَالِيَةِ
 وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَفْسَسَ، فَوَجَدَ بَعْضًا مِّنَ التَّلَامِيذِ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «هَلْ نَلِتُمُ الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ لِمَا آمَنْتُمْ؟» قَالُوا
 لَهُ: «لَا، حَتَّى إِنَّا لَمْ نَسْمَعْ بِوُجُودِ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ». قَالَ: «فَبِأَيِّ مَعْمُودِيَّةٍ اعْتَمَدْتُمْ؟»
 فَقَالُوا: «بِمَعْمُودِيَّةِ يُوْحَنَّا». فَقَالَ بُولُسُ: «إِنَّ يُوْحَنَّا عَمَدَ بِمَعْمُودِيَّةِ النَّوْبَةِ قَائِلًا لِلشَّعْبِ أَنْ يُؤْمِنُوا
 بِالَّذِي يَأْتِي بَعْدَهُ أَيُّ بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ». فَلَمَّا سَمِعُوا اعْتَمَدُوا بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ، وَوَضَعَ بُولُسُ
 يَدَيْهِ عَلَيْهِمْ فَحَلَّ الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ عَلَيْهِمْ، فَطَفِقُوا يَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِلُغَاتٍ وَيَتَّبِعُونَ. وَكَانُوا كُلُّهُمْ نَحْوَ اثْنَيْ
 عَشَرَ رَجُلًا. ثُمَّ دَخَلَ الْمَجْمَعُ، وَكَانَ يُجَاهِرُ مَدَّةَ ثَلَاثَةِ أَشْهُرٍ يُفَاوِضُهُمْ وَيُقْنِعُهُمْ بِمَا يَخْتَصُّ
 بِمَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس يوحنا الإنجيلي البشير

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ رَأَى يُوْحَنَّا يَسُوعَ مُقْبِلًا إِلَيْهِ، فَقَالَ: «هُوَذَا حَمَلُ اللَّهِ الَّذِي يَرْفَعُ خَطِيئَةَ الْعَالَمِ! هَذَا
 هُوَ الَّذِي قُلْتُ عَنْهُ: إِنَّهُ يَأْتِي بَعْدِي رَجُلٌ قَدْ صَارَ قَبْلِي، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ مُتَقَدِّمِي. وَأَنَا لَمْ أَكُنْ أَعْرِفُهُ.
 لَكِن لِكَيْ يُظْهَرَ لِإِسْرَائِيلَ، جِئْتُ أَنَا أَعْمَدُ بِالْمَاءِ». وَشَهِدَ يُوْحَنَّا قَائِلًا: «إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ الرُّوحَ مِثْلَ
 حَمَامَةٍ قَدْ نَزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَاسْتَقَرَّ عَلَيْهِ. وَأَنَا لَمْ أَكُنْ أَعْرِفُهُ، لَكِن الَّذِي أَرْسَلَنِي لِأَعْمَدَ بِالْمَاءِ، هُوَ
 قَالَ لِي: إِنَّ الَّذِي تَرَى الرُّوحَ يَنْزِلُ وَيَسْتَقِرُّ عَلَيْهِ، هُوَ الَّذِي يَعْمَدُ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. وَأَنَا قَدْ عَانَيْتُ
 وَشَهِدْتُ أَنَّ هَذَا هُوَ ابْنُ اللَّهِ».

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

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