



ST. ATHANASIUS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

300 Sumida Gardens Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Office hours: Tues-Fri. 12:00—5:00 p.m.

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA

Pastor:

Fr. Symeon Halsell
805-685-5495
frsymeon@stathanasius.org

Priests attached to the parish:

Fr. Nicholas Speier (Pastor Emeritus)
frnicholas@stathanasius.org, 805-685-5400

Fr. John Carrillo 805-770-3749 (retired)
Fr. Jon Braun (retired)
Fr. John Finley (Archdiocese Dept. of Missions)

Deacons:

Dn. Gary Braun
Dn. Scott Jacobs
Dn. John Young (retired)

Subdeacons: Stephen Butler & Michael Easbey

Parish Council 2023-2024

Lara Jacobs, Chair
Glenn Hoppe, Vice Chair
Dan Braun, Treasurer
Asia Ballew, Secretary
Dominic Dopico
Kristin King
Michael Loulias
Velislava Nikolov

Music Director/Administrator:

Valerie Yova
Office phone: 805-685-5400
email: office@stathanasius.org

**Teen Program & College/Young Adult
Activities Coordinator**

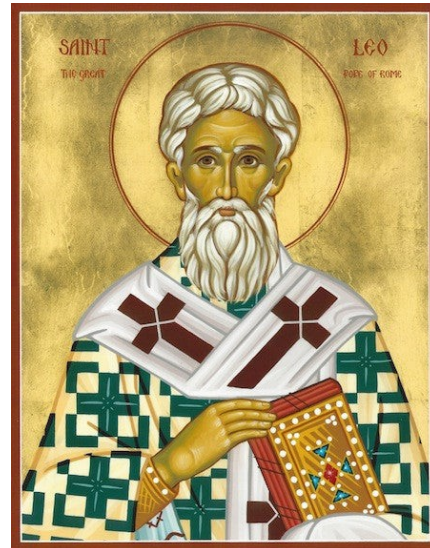
Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

February 18, 2024

**Tone 4 / Eothinon 4; Seventeenth Sunday after
Pentecost & Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew**

Leo the Great, Pope of Rome;
Agapitos the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada
in Phrygia, and his Companions



WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

We are glad you are with us this morning
to join our worship of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit!
Please join us on the patio after the Liturgy for
the Agape Meal. We'd love to meet you!

We welcome children of all ages in our worship.

“Let the little children come unto Me for of such is
the Kingdom of Heaven.” Luke 18:16

At the conclusion of Matins, we sing the Great Doxology
followed by the Matins Dismissal Troparion

**THE DIVINE LITURGY
OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

FIRST ANTIPHON—Psalm verses with refrain

Vs. It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High;
To proclaim Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. [Refrain]

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Vs. Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. [Refrain]

Vs. Glory...now & ever...Amen. [Refrain]

SECOND ANTIPHON—Psalm verses with refrain

Vs. The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength
and hath girded Himself.

**Refrain: O Son Of God Who rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee,
Alleluia!**

Vs. For He hath established the world which shall not be shaken. [Refrain]

Vs. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore. [Refrain]

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Only Begotten Son and immortal Word of God who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, who without change didst become man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON—The Beatitudes or “Sermon on the Mount”

In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord,
when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are you when men shall revile you and shall persecute you, and shall say all
manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

HYMNS SUNG AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:

Troparion of the Resurrection

Tone 4

Having learned the joyful message
of the Resurrection from the angel,
the women disciples of the Lord cast from them
their parental condemnation,
and proudly broke the news to the disciples
saying death has been spoiled.
Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion to St. Athanasius

Tone 3

Holy Bishop Athanasius,
you became a stronghold of Orthodoxy,
strengthening the Church through your divine teachings.
Opposing the heretical opinion of Arius,
you explained and taught that the Son is equal in nature with the Father.
O holy Father, intercede with Christ God
that He may grant us abundant mercy.

Kontakion - Ordinary Sundays

Tone 4

O undisputed intercessor of Christians,
The mediatrix, who was unrejected by the Creator.
Turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners.
Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith, for thou art good.
Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos,
who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

TRISAGION (THRICE-HOLY) HYMN (p. 9 of Liturgy Book)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

+Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Deacon: With strength!

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Preparatory Psalm verses before the Epistle

Tone 4

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom Thou hast made them all. (*Ps 103/104:24*)

Vs. Bless the Lord O my soul, O Lord my God, Thou art very great.

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Brethren, you 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.

Alleluia Refrain and Psalm verses before the Gospel

Tone 4

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Verse: Draw Thy bow and prosper and reign, in the cause of truth, meekness, and righteousness. (*Ps 44/45:5*)

Verse: Thou hast loved righteousness and hated wickedness. (*Ps 44/45:8*)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, help me." And He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Holy Communion & The Thanksgiving Prayers

In the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Communion is offered only to Orthodox Christians who have humbly prepared to receive through prayer and a recent Sacramental Confession.

Non-Orthodox people and those not communing today may approach during Communion for a priestly blessing by saying, "Father, bless." After this you may take a piece of antidoron (blessed bread) offered in the bowls.

If you are interested in joining the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, speak with our Pastor about how to become an Orthodox Christian.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we offer **Thanksgiving Prayers** for having received the body and blood of Christ. These beautiful prayers help us to reflect on the mystery in which we have partaken and prepare us for our transition from the Kingdom back into "the world." If you have partaken, stay to listen to these prayers after you have venerated the cross. Immediately after, the priest will bless the Agape Meal. **We ask that all your socializing take place outside of the church.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ADULT CATECHISM CLASS FOR THIS WINTER has begun. The class meets on Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. on the following schedule:

February 17 & 24
March 9, 16 & 30

The class will pause during Great Lent and meet again beginning in late May.

AKATHIST/PARAKLESIS ON WEDNESDAYS

From now until March 6th, we will pray either an Akathist or a Paraklesis Service at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. We will pause during Great Lent, and begin again on May 15th. As weather permits, we will pray the Parakleses out in our field, at the cross that is planted where our temple will stand.

February 21	Paraklesis
February 28	Akathist
March 6	Paraklesis

ALL-PARISH MEETING—NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th

Next Sunday, February 25th after the Agape Meal, we will have an all-parish meeting to receive an update on the rezoning situation for our land and next steps to be taken. We will not be voting on anything. It will be an informational meeting.

PRE-LENTEN SEMINAR—SATURDAY, MARCH 9th

On Saturday, March 9th, we will have our annual Pre-Lenten Seminar directly following the Soul Liturgy (which begins at 9:00 a.m.) and a brief coffee break. The seminar will begin at approximately 10:30 a.m. The topic will be “The Soul’s Cry to the Lord: The Lenten Prayers of St. Ephrem the Syrian, and St. Andrew of Crete’s “Great Canon.”

FINANCIAL UPDATE		
January 2024		
	Actual Income	Budget Goal
Tithes received in January	\$ 48,935	\$ 57,417 (includes \$20,555 for mortgage)
January Temple donations	\$ 7,810	
Temple Fund Balance	\$ 713,873	
Total expenses January 2024		\$63,131
Total income January 2024		- 57,169
DEFICIT		\$ 5,962

PLEASE JOIN US
in welcoming Metropolitan SABA to our parish
for the first time on



**THIS TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**
(Please note the change from Feb. 23rd)

**Vespers at 5:30 p.m.
followed by Dinner**

UPCOMING SCHEDULE of FEAST DAYS & Special Activities

PRE-LENTEN SEMINAR

Saturday, March 9

10:30 a.m. (after Soul Liturgy & Coffee Break)
“The Soul’s Cry to the Lord: the Lenten Prayers
of St. Ephrem and St. Andrew of Crete’s
Great Canon.”

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Sunday, March 24

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers
at Annunciation Orthodox Church in Santa Maria
(This is also the Sunday of Orthodoxy. The
Great Vespers will be for the feast of Annunciation.)

Monday, March 25

6:00 p.m. Vespers-Liturgy at our parish

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Wedding Anniversaries

2/19 Ben & Viktoria Hedges, Adriana & Ron Malik

Birthdays

2/19 Kh. Jan Finley

2/20 Noelle Aviles, Delaney Catherine Newhouse

2/21 Tyson Shackelford

**A PRAYER FOR GOD'S BLESSING OF THE
LAND DEVELOPMENT**

Almighty God, Creator and Fashioner, who didst found the earth on its firmness, who is the fountain of Wisdom and Tower of Strength, our help and refuge, Thou knowest that we can do nothing without Thy Divine guidance and aid: assist us that we may gird ourselves in simplicity that we may be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. Knowing that Thy wisdom and providence always prevail and are our strength, we ask that Thou dost bless our efforts to establish this land as a dedication to Thee. Thou hast given this earth to us to be a land of peace, and a beacon of salvation for mankind, we ask that this place be founded unshakably so that our children's children may glorify Thee unto the end of this age. Be Thou well pleased to bless us in Thy holy will to bring all our plans to completion, free them from every snare of the adversary that we may build upon this land a holy temple in which we may ascribe glory to Thee and the building up of all that is necessary for our salvation and that of this city and county; for Thine is the dominion, and Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**An Excerpt from
THE ONE GOSPEL
by His Eminence Metropolitan SABA**

Each of the four evangelists wrote the gospel of Christ, for the purpose of proclaiming Christ. This was done by divine inspiration, to reveal the image of Christ and His saving work and teaching more clearly, in greater detail and depth—as when photographs are taken of someone from several angles. Hence is the difference of each book from the others, and although the four books contain a variety of events, they are one, and although they contain many sayings, they are similar. Each of them presented the gospel of Christ in the best way for the hearers to understand, by the inspiration of God, so that it could reach them in its truth.

The evangelist Matthew, for example, who preached in Syria and addressed his book to the Jews, linked the events of Jesus' life to the prophecies of the Old Testament prophets and quoted verses from their books, to show them that He was the promised Messiah. Mark, who preached to the pagans in Rome, did not mention these prophets, but translated every Hebrew word he had to use into Latin so that his readers could know its meaning. In His book, Matthew places Jesus' teaching in an order that shows that Christ is the new Moses, who gives the perfect Law (on the mount), which abolishes the old incomplete law, focusing more on this fulfillment than on His teachings themselves (to Him be the glory). Mark, on the other hand, wrote more about Jesus' deeds than about His teachings, because he addressed the power-loving Romans in order to show them the image of Christ as the most powerful God and to communicate that what Christ did was impossible for the gods they knew.

The first three books contain many identical events and sayings, so they are called the Synoptic Books, because biblical scholars have placed these events and sayings in parallel columns, in order to compare them. John, who wrote the divine gospel at the end of his days and died a hundred years old, saw no need to repeat what his predecessors had written. His book was distinguished in style and presentation and was called the spiritual gospel, although it highlighted the theology of the Incarnation as no one else had.

The four books richly show the dimensions of Christ's person and gospel, as no single book could have. Therefore, from the outset, the Church refused to merge these four books into one comprehensive book. The theology revealed by each of the four evangelists in his book cannot survive if they are combined into one book.

You can meditate and be enriched by the person, role, teaching, and saving work of Christ, with immeasurable riches, based on these books you have, which thousands of millions of people have based their lives on before you. "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

To read the complete article: <https://antiochian.org/regulararticle/1931>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests received through the parish office will be printed in the bulletin and will be prayed for during the litanies at the daily services. Prayer requests received in the box at the church will be prayed for quietly at the altar at all services. Prayer requests remain for 40 days unless requested otherwise.

**Send prayer requests for the bulletin to: office@stathanasius.org.
Please pray for the health of:**

His Beatitude, Patriarch John X
Metropolitan SABA
Mother Victoria
Met. Paul & Abp. John
Abp. Benjamin
Fr. Ignace
Fr. Jon B.
Fr. John & Kh. Diane C.
Fr. Nicholas & Jan
Fr. Turbo & St. Mary parish
Fr. Paul and St. Moses parish
Greg & Margaret Y.
Hoppe Family in Albania
Joseph Wm. B. in Kenya
Duane F.
Richard and Susan B.
Bob N.
Kh. Melissa H.
Jeremiah & Sarah H. (military)
Lauren & Fernando J. (military)
Chase K. (military)
Nick & Kristine J. (military)
Connor V. (military)
Julianna & Zaron D. (military)
P. Speier (military)

Subdn. Matthew W. (seminary)
Steve T.
Temmo K.
Sarah B..
Dn. John & Fay Y.
Samantha & Chris N. & Family
Kevin D. & Family
Erik L.
Matthew
Wade
Amanda Catherine
Darcy
Penny B.
Nancy & Patrick G.
Audry D.

For the local agencies and their leaders who are working to fight human trafficking.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church

All those suffering and in danger in Ukraine, Africa, and the Middle East

Please pray for the raising up and support of long-term missionaries from our parish.

For repose of the souls of: Deborah, Fr. Ivan M. Fr. Moses B., Kh. Dina B., Isabel E., Chuck A.

ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH BOOKSTORE

The church bookstore is located in the foyer of our building. The tables and two enclosed cabinets contain items that are FOR SALE. One cabinet holds icons, crosses, incense, prayer ropes, etc. The bookshelf has books for sale, arranged alphabetically by book title. Children’s books are on the bottom shelf. See Terri Speier if you are looking for jewelry such as a cross or chain. You can contact Terri at: bookstore@stathanasius.org.

Payment should be made at time of purchase and placed in the brown lockbox on wall next to Fr. Symeon’s office. Make checks payable to **S.A.O.C. Bookstore**.

The pamphlets in the rack are FREE, as are the 12-month liturgical calendars.)

All proceeds go to the parish Temple Fund.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 18

9:00 a.m. Catechesis for children 3yrs-6th grade
 9:00 a.m. Matins
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
 11:30 a.m. Teen Education
 11:45 a.m. Agape Meal
 12:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Monday, February 19

7:00 a.m. Daily Readers Matins
 6:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom
 (Akathist for St. Nikiforos)

Tuesday, February 20

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers
MET. SABA's PASTORAL VISIT
 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Wednesday, February 21

7:00 a.m. Daily Readers Matins
 12:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry at the church
 5:30 p.m. Little Paraklesis

Thursday, February 22

7:45 a.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom
 10:00 a.m. Showers of Blessing
 5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Friday, February 23

7:00 a.m. Daily Matins (with a priest)

Saturday, February 24

3:00 p.m. Adult Catechism
 5:30 p.m. Vespers/Confession

Sunday, February 25

9:00 a.m. Catechesis for children 3yrs-6th grade
 9:00 a.m. Matins
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
 11:30 a.m. Teen Education
 11:45 a.m. Agape Meal

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

February 18 Jacobs
 February 25 Meyer
 March 3 Hoppe
 March 10 Dillon

READERS

February 18 Butler
 February 25 Butler
 March 3 Lange
 March 10 Gish

GREETERS

February 18 H. Lange
 February 25 G. Hoppe
 March 3 M. Loulias
 March 10 L. Baker

USHERS

February 18 D. Meyer/M. Loulias
 February 25 S. Speier/C. Speier
 March 3 P. King/J. King
 March 10 D. Washburn/D. Alexander

AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

February 18 Team Lander
 February 25 Team Kawahara
 March 3 Team King
 March 10 MEATFARE BBQ

Please continue to pray for all of our catechumens, that their minds and hearts will be illumined as they continue their journey towards baptism and/or chrismation.

Rebecca Beech	Kevin Duke
Cameron Bobro	Adam English
Natasha Carr	Mark Gross
Paul Carr	Connor Clements
Ethan Salcedo	

