



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

Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

## DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

February 25, 2024

Tone 5 / Eothinon 5

### Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

Tarasios the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople;  
Hieromartyr Markellos, Bishop of Apamea in Syria



## 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 5**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal 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.

**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 of the Publican & the Pharisee**

**Tone 4**

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!  
Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!  
Let us cry to our Savior:  
“Have mercy on us,  
O only merciful One

**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 5**

Thou O Lord shall keep us and preserve us from this generation forever. (*Ps 11/12:7*)

**Verse:** Save me O Lord, for there is now no saint. (*Ps 11/12:1*)

**EPISTLE READING**

(For Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican)

**Timothy 3:10-15**

Timothy my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my sufferings; and what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured; yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**Alleluia Refrain and Psalm verses before the Gospel**

**Tone 5**

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Verse:** I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth;  
I will make known Thy faithfulness to all generations. (*Ps 88/89:1*)

**Verse:** For Thou hast said: "Mercy shall be built up forever;  
In the heavens shall Thy truth be established." (*Ps 88/89:2*)

## GOSPEL READING

(For Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican)

### Luke 18:10-14

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

## 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

**THIS COMING WEEK IS COMPLETELY FAST-FREE**, as we prepare to begin the Great Fast, which starts on March 18th.

**ST. BARBARA MONASTERY WILL HOST ITS MONTHLY FRIENDS GATHERING TODAY at 4:00 p.m.** Fr. John Tomasi will speak on “Unseen Warfare: Living the Orthodox Life in the Modern World.” Vespers and a Potluck Supper will follow the presentation.

**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

**THERE IS NO CLASS THIS COMING SATURDAY.**

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 28 Akathist to St. Raphael of Brooklyn

March 6 Paraklesis

### ALL-PARISH MEETING TODAY

Today 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.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

January 2024

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Budget Goal</u>
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
<b>DEFICIT</b>		<b>\$ 5,962</b>

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE of FEAST DAYS,  
GREAT LENT & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

**SOUL LITURGY & PRE-LENTEN SEMINAR — Saturday, March 9**

9:00 a.m. Soul Liturgy  
10:30 a.m. Pre-Lenten Seminar (after brief Coffee Break)  
“The Soul’s Cry to the Lord: the Lenten Prayers  
of St. Ephrem the Syrian and the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete”

**MEATFARE SUNDAY — Sunday, March 10**

BBQ after Liturgy

**CHEESEFARE SUNDAY — Sunday, March 17**

Project Mexico Misson Team Fundraiser/Luncheon after Liturgy  
**FORGIVENESS VESPERS at 6:00 p.m.**

**GREAT LENT BEGINS — Monday, March 18**

**FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT—Services every evening at 6:00 p.m.**

Monday Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew  
Tuesday Little Compline with portion of Canon  
Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy  
Thursday Little Compline with portion of Canon  
Friday Akathist to the Mother of God

**During the remaining 5 weeks of Great Lent,  
we do not have Tuesday/Thursday Daily Vespers.**

**We pray the following services at 6:00 p.m.:**

Great Compline on Mondays  
Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays  
Akathist on Fridays

**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. Vesperal-Liturgy at our parish

**CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK**

**Birthdays**

- 2/25 Athanasia Ballew
- 2/28 Manuela Carralejo
- 3/2 Jordan Denny

**Patronal Feast Day Celebrations**

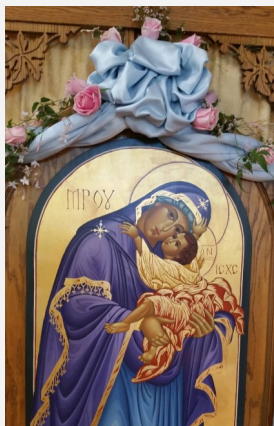
- 2/26 **St. Photini the Samaritan Woman** Penny Carralejo, Teri Lynn Palmer





## **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.



## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**St. Athanasius Women's Fellowship**

*Annunciation Tea*

**- for Women & Girls of all ages -  
Bring your daughters, granddaughters  
and goddaughters!**

**Saturday, March 30, 2024**

**11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

**More details to follow soon.**

**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](mailto: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.

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**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](mailto: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.**

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## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### 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

### Monday, February 26

7:00 a.m. Daily Readers Matins  
 5:45 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom  
 (Akathist for St. Nikiforos)

### Tuesday, February 27—Repose of St. Raphael

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

### Wednesday, February 28

7:00 a.m. Daily Readers Matins  
 12:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry at the church  
 5:30 p.m. Akathist for St. Raphael of Brooklyn  
 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 29

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  
 6:15 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

### Friday, March 1

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

### Saturday, March 2

#### **NO CATECHSIM**

5:30 p.m. Vespers/Confession

### Sunday, March 3

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 25 Meyer  
 March 3 Hoppe  
 March 10 Dillon  
 March 17 Dn. G. Braun

### READERS

February 25 Gish  
 March 3 Lange  
 March 10 Gish  
 March 17 Lange  
 March 17 Alexander (Forgiveness Vespers)

### GREETERS

February 25 G. Hoppe  
 March 3 M. Loulias  
 March 10 L. Baker  
 March 17 K.P. King

### USHERS

February 25 S. Speier/C. Speier  
 March 3 P. King/J. King  
 March 10 D. Washburn/D. Alexander  
 March 17 K.L. King/D. Meyer

### AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

February 25 Team Kawahara  
 March 3 Team King  
 March 10 MEATFARE BBQ  
 March 17 PROJECT MEXICO TEAM  
 Fundraiser/Luncheon

**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	

## THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE

One of the lessons of the Gospel Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14) is that humility is a virtue needed as a precondition for further spiritual growth. It isn't a goal that we strive for and hope to achieve in some distant future after years of Christian maturation, but it is part of the foundation we need for further growth.

Jesus Himself tells the Parable of the Publican and Pharisee to extol the virtue of humility. We've all been told endless times that the Pharisee in the story is the religious zealot. He does everything he boasts of doing. He is not lying nor exaggerating but telling the truth about his piety. He is laying claim to the reward he assumes God must bestow upon him for his virtue. The Publican is the notorious sinner of the parable, who admits before God that he is a sinner and begs God's mercy. As even St. John Chrysostom notes, it is not particularly humble to admit you are a sinner when in fact you are one – you are just acknowledging the truth of the matter. The Publican has little to commend himself to God, and yet it is he, not the pious and self-righteous Pharisee, that is favored by God because God rejects the pride of the Pharisee and embraces the humility of the Publican. The Publican goes beyond admitting to the truth and accepting the judgment that is laid on him. Therein lies his humility. He cannot lay claim to any reward for virtue, but opens himself to the mercy and love of God.

*Jesus said: "I tell you, this person went down to his/her house  
justified rather than the first;  
for every one who exalts himself will be humbled,  
but he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:14)*

<https://blog.obitel-minsk.com/2020/02/the-publican-and-me.html>