



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)
Fr. John Carrillo (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

Dominic Dopico, Chair
Kristin King, Vice Chair
Dan Braun, Treasurer
Velislava Nikolov, Secretary
Asia Ballew
Sydney Hedges
Michael Loulias
Cheryl Washburn-Lander

Music Director/Administrator:

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

Teen Program Coordinator

Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

College/Young Adult Activities Coordinators

Athanasia Ballew
asiaballew@proton.me

Zac Wood
zac.wood9@gmail.com

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT Sunday, January 5, 2025 Tone 2 / Eothinon 5

**Transfer from January 6th of the Feast of the
THEOPHANY
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**



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. BASIL THE GREAT**

THE GREAT LITANY

First Antiphon—Psalm Verses for the Feast of Theophany with Refrain

Verse: When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

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

Verse: The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back. What ails you, o sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back? [refrain]

Verse: Glory....now and ever... [refrain]

Second Antiphon— Psalm Verses for the Feast of Theophany with Refrain

Verse: I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.
Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

**Refrain: O Son of God baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to Thee,
Alleluia!**

Verse: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me.
I suffered distress and anguish, then I called on the name of the Lord. [refrain]

Verse: Gracious and righteous is the Lord, and our God is merciful. [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—Psalm Verses with Troparion for Theophany as refrain

Verse: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His mercy endures forever!

**Refrain: When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,
worship of the Trinity was made manifest!
For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,
calling You his beloved Son.
And the Spirit, in the likeness of a dove
confirmed the truth of His Word.
Christ our God, Who has appeared
and enlightened the world,
glory to You!**

Verse: Let the house of Israel say: for He is good,
For His mercy endures forever! [refrain]

Verse: Let the house of Aaron say: for He is good,
For His mercy endures forever! [refrain]

**HOLY CHRISMATION
of Kevin Duke, and Greg & Miki Hammel**

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN (*Sung in place of "Holy God"*)

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (THRICE)

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

Deacon: With Strength!

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

**THE NEWLY ILLUMINED TAKE THEIR PLACES IN THE NAVE, AND THE
CLERGY ENTER THE ALTAR. THE LITURGY CONTINUES, AS USUAL.**

Prokeimenon (Psalm verses with refrain before the Epistle) Tone 4

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

Verse: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 97/98)

EPISTLE READING for the FEAST OF THEOPHANY

Titus 2:11-15, 3:4-7

Titus, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Alleluia Refrain with Psalm verses before the Gospel Tone 1

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. (Repeated by all as a refrain.)

Verse 1. Bring unto the Lord, O Sons of God, bring young rams unto the Lord! (*Refrain*)

Verse 2. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters! The glory of God thundered, the Lord is upon many waters! (*Refrain*)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Meglynarion for the Feast of Epiphany (Hymn to the Mother of God)

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable than the heavenly hosts!

No tongue knows how to praise you worthily, O Theotokos;
even Angels are overcome with awe praising you.

But since you are good, accept our faith;
for you know our love inspired by God!

You are the defender of Christians, and we magnify you.

COMMUNION HYMN for THEOPHANY

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all. (Titus 2:11)

- *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.*
- *He who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity.*
- *To purify for himself a people of His own, who are zealous for good deeds.*

THE NEWLY-ILLUMINED, WITH THEIR SPONSORS, ARE TO BE THE FIRST TO COME TO COMMUNION FOR 40 DAYS.

After Communion, instead of singing “We have seen the true light”, we sing the Festal Troparion.

After “Blessed be the name of the Lord,” we will do the GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATER.

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, fasting, 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.**

RESPONSES IN OTHER LANGUAGES

At the encouragement of His Eminence, Metropolitan Saba, during the Divine Liturgy Fr. Symeon is “giving the peace,” in a variety of languages and the choir is responding to “Peace be to all,” in the corresponding language with “And to thy spirit.” These are the languages being rotated each week:

English	Peace be to all.	And to thy spirit.
Arabic	As-sa-la-mu li-ja- í-kum.	Wuh-li wou-ee-kah
Greek	E-ray-ney pasi.	Ke-to pnevmati-sou
Spanish	La paz sea con vosotros.	Y con tú espíritu
Slavonic	Mir fs'em	i so dukhom tw-oim
Romanian	Pace tuturor	Și duhului tău.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD GRANT MANY YEARS TO THE NEWLY CHRISMATED AND THEIR SPONSORS! Please remember them in your prayers.

Kevin Duke (Peter Van Dolah, Sponsor)
Greg Hammell (Kent Fox, Sponsor)
Miki Hammel (Judy Braun, Sponsor)

CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS to Fernando and Lauren (King) Jimenez on the baptism of their infant son, Fernando Elias, on Saturday, December 28th. Many years, also, to godparents Glenn and Liz Hoppe, and grandparents Doug and Kristi King.

WE WILL BLESS ALL OF THE VEHICLES IN THE PARKING LOT ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025

LENTEN SEMINAR taught by Fr. John Finley—"The Inner Heaven of Man: Healing of the Mind, Heart, and Will according to St. Nikolai of Zica."

UPCOMING FEASTS

Sunday, Jan. 5	Our celebration of Theophany is transferred to Jan. 5th.	
	Festal Matins of Theophany with Reception of Converts (Chrismations)	9:00/10:00a.m.
	Outdoor Blessing of the Water & Dive for Cross at Harbor with St. Barbara Parish	1:00 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 12	BLESSING OF VEHICLES	At end of Liturgy
Saturday, Jan. 18	Divine Liturgy for Feast of St. Athanasius followed by Chili Cookoff/Brunch	9:00 a.m.
Saturday, Feb. 1	Festal Vespers for Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple	5:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 2	Festal Matins/Liturgy for Feast of the tPresentation of Our Lord in the Temple	9:00/10:00 a.m.

ADULT CATECHISM SCHEDULE

WINTER 2025

Saturdays from 3-5 p.m.

January 11 - Session 1

“The Life in Christ by Faith: The Trinity,
Apostolic Tradition, and Scripture”

January 18 - Session 2

“A Life of Repentance and Holiness”

January 25 - Session 3

“The Realm of Redemption:
The Church and Its Sacraments”

February 1 - Session 4

“Seeing and Living in the Beauty, Truth and Wisdom of God”

February 8 - Session 5

“The Age to Come: The Second Coming and the Saints”

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Wedding Anniversaries

1/06 Anthony & Christina Salcedo

1/09 Mark & Dee Kern

Birthdays

1/5 Dominic Salcedo

1/7 Gabriel Wolfington

1/11 Mason Speier

Patron Saint Commemorations

1/7 **Synaxis of St. John the Baptist**

Ronald Berari, Fr. John Finley, John Heiduk, Gianni Madrigal,

John Ronan Meyer, Johnny Wallace



Mission & Evangelism
Agency of the Assembly of
Canonical Orthodox Bishops of
the United States of America

December 16, 2024

St. Athanasius Orthodox Church
300 Sumida Gardens Ln
Santa Barbara, CA 93111-3369

Dear Fr. Symeon and Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord!

All of us at the Mission Center remain grateful that faithful like you continue to sustain the Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) program. Especially in Africa, the Orthodox Church continues to grow through the ministry of her dedicated priests. His Grace POLYKARPOS, of the newly-established Diocese of Bunia and Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo, shares, "Thank you for your continued and steadfast support for our mission. May the Lord reciprocate you a hundred times what you do for us."

Thank you for continuing your commitment to the SAMP program. Over the next year, your monthly donation of \$50 will be helping priests like Fr. Gabriel in the Metropolis of Nairobi, Kenya, whose biography sheet I have enclosed.

May the blessings of the Lord be with you always!

Yours in Christ,

Markella Balasis
SAMP Program Coordinator

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Protospesbyter Martin Ritsi
Executive Director



GABRIEL NJOROGE KARONGO

SAMP PRIEST SERVING IN THE
METROPOLIS OF NAIROBI, KENYA

Fr. Gabriel Njoroge Karongo was born on February 20, 1961. He attended the Makarios III Patriarchal Seminary in Nairobi and graduated in November of 1985. He currently serves the parish of St. Paul in Mpeketoni.

Orthodoxy came to the people of East Africa, not through the efforts of a single missionary, but through charismatic African men searching for truth and “orthodoxia” in the early 1920s. Correspondence began with the Patriarchate of Alexandria, and in 1946, they were received into canonical Orthodoxy through Patriarch CHRISTOPHOROS. In 1958, the Patriarchal Synod appointed NICHOLAS (Valeropoulos) the first Metropolitan of Irinoupolis and All East Africa, and in 1972, three African priests were ordained to the rank of auxiliary bishop.

In 1972, construction began on the Makarios III Patriarchal Seminary in Nairobi. His Beatitude Archbishop ANASTASIOS (Yannoulatos), who in 1982 was assigned as acting Archbishop, completed the seminary and undertook the training of indigenous priests, translations, and the building of churches, clinics, and schools.

In November 2015, the Patriarchal Synod expanded the Church in Kenya into three dioceses: the Metropolis of Nairobi, shepherded by His Eminence Elder Archbishop MAKARIOS; the Diocese of Nyeri and Mount Kenya; and the Diocese of Kisumu and West Kenya. Then in 2019, the Diocese of Kisumu was subdivided to create the new Diocese of Eldoret.

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. Gabriel in Kenya (OCMC)
Fr. Jon B.
Fr. John & Kh. Diane C.
Fr. Nicholas & Jan
Fr. Turbo & St. Mary parish
Fr. Paul and St. Moses parish
Hieromonk Siloan
Greg & Margaret Y.
Hoppe Family in Albania (OCMC)
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)
Julianna & Zaron D. (military)
P. Speier (military)

Subdn. Matthew & Christina
Steve T.
Temmo K.
Dn. John & Fay Y.
Samantha & Chris N. & Family
Wade
Kh. Peggy K.
Amanda, Chris & Baby James
Kh. Janet Henderson
Phyllis M.
Marta C.
Sonia T.
Jon R.
Penny B.
Eden Rose
Suzanne S.
Jen H.

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.

OUR CATECHUMENS:

Karti Adimulam
Isaak Lau
Brennan Pawley
Ethan Salcedo
Logan Strait

For repose of the souls of: Matushka Marie M., Craig W.

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, January 5-THEOPHANY (transferred from 1/6)

9:00 a.m. Matins of Theophany & Catechesis
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of Theophany,
 Chrismations and Great Blessing
 of the Water
 11:30 a.m. Teen Education
 11:45 a.m. Coffee & Beverages Only
 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Blessing of the Water at
 Santa Barbara Harbor followed by
 light lunch

Monday, January 6

7:00 a.m. Daily Readers' Matins
 3:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom

Tuesday, January 7

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

Wednesday, January 8

7:00 a.m. Daily Readers' Matins
 11:50 a.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry (in the chapel)

Thursday, January 9

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 Christmas Party

Friday, January 10

7:00 a.m. Matins (with a priest)
 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (for St. Gregory of Nyssa
 and St. Theophan the Recluse)

Saturday, January 11

5:30 p.m. Great Vespers/ Confessions

Sunday, January 12

9:00 a.m. Matins & Catechesis
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy and
**Blessing of Vehicles right after
 the Dismissal**
 11:30 a.m. Teen Education
 11:45 a.m. Agape Meal

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

January 5 Hoppe
 January 12 Dillon
 January 19 Morrison
 January 26 Fr. Nicholas

READERS

January 5 Butler
 January 12 Meyer
 January 18 Kern (St. Athanasius Liturgy)
 January 19 Gish
 January 26 Lange

GREETERS

January 5 A. Ballew/N. Aviles
 January 12 G. Hoppe/B. Eberhard
 January 19 K.P. King/L. Baker
 January 26 M. Wayne/K.L. King

USHERS

January 5 P. King/J. King
 January 12 K.L. King/D. Meyer
 January 19 M. Loulias/D. Washburn
 January 26 S. Speier/C. Speier

AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

January 5 Beverages Only
 Outdoor Blessing of Water at 1pm
 January 12 McIntire (Ethiopian Cuisine)
 January 19 Team Worthington
 January 26 Team Aviles/Wood

UPCOMING WEEKDAY LITURGIES

8:00 a.m.

January

Fri, Jan 10—Venerable Gregory of Nyssa, St. Theophan the Recluse

Fri, Jan 24—St. Xenia of St. Petersburg, the fool for Christ

Tue, Jan 28 – Righteous Ephraim and Isaac the Syrians

Fri, Jan 31: Cyrus & John the Unmercenaries

February

Tue, Feb 11—St. Theodora the Empress

Fri, Feb 14—Holy Father Auxentius of the Mountain

Thur, Feb 27—St. Ephraim of Katounakia

REGARDING 2024 TITHES...

The church will accept tithes and donations for the 2024 fiscal year up through TODAY, January 5th. Please be sure to date checks for the year for which they are intended.

Checks received after today will be credited towards 2025, regardless of what date is on them.

Donations made online on the parish website are entered as the date of the transaction, unless noted otherwise in the memo section.