

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

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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Sunday, March 30, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Great Lent Commemoration of John Climacus, Author of "The Ladder"

New Hieromartyr Zachariah, Metropolitan of Corinth; Sophronios, Bishop of Irkutsk



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

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

THE GREAT LITANY

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.

AS THE CLERGY ENTER THE ALTAR AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE, WE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS FOR THE DAY:

Troparion of the Resurrection

Tone 7

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine apostles proclaim a warning that Thou hast risen, O Christ, granting the world the great mercy.

Troparion for St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)

Tone 8

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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 Akathist & the Sundays of Great Let

Tone 8

To thee, our Queen, leader in battle and defender. We thy people delivered from all peril, offer hymns of vict'ry and thanksgiving, O Theotokos. Since thou dost possess invincible power, set us free from ev'ry calamity. That we may cry unto thee: Hail O bride without bridegroom.

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 (Prokeimenon) Tone 7

The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Vs: Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

EPISTLE READING Hebrews 6:13-20

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Preparatory Psalm Verses with Alleluia Refrain Before the Gospel Tone 7

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

Verse: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Thy

Name, O Most High. Alleluia...

Verse: To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth

in the night. Alleluia...

GOSPEL READING Mark. (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

MEGLYNARION—HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child – our God before the ages: He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! (Ps 148:1) The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! (Ps. 111:6)

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE... Lazarus Saturday — April 12, 2025 HIERARCHICHAL DIVINE LITURGY at 9:00 a.m.

with His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY (including baptisms and chrismations of catechumens)

The Liturgy will be followed by Coffee Hour & our annual **WORK PARTY.**Please plan to stay & help us get the building and grounds ready for Palm Sunday & Pascha!
We have jobs for folks of all ages!

THE ST. BARBARA MONASTERY FRIENDS MONTHLY GATHERING is today at 4:00 p.m. Mother Macrina will present some reflections on the Theotokos, followed by Vespers and a Potluck Supper.

THIS THURSDAY at 6:00 p.m. we will pray Little Compline with the Canon of St. Andrew and the reading of the life of St. Mary of Egypt. (This is in addition to our other Lenten services on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.)

THANK YOU TO ANTHONY AND CHRISTINA SALCEDO for offering two lenten cooking classes during this fasting season. We will offer a class again in one of the summer fasting periods. Stay tuned!

NEED HELP PREPARING THE BAY LEAVES FOR HOLY SATURDAY

The Festal Decorating team needs lots of help washing and hand drying the bay leaves that we scatter on Holy Saturday morning during the Liturgy. We receive bay leaves from St. Barbara Monastery, but they have to be pulled off the branches and prepared with great care.

If you are able to help on either **Tuesday, April 8th or Thursday, April 10th**, please contact Cheryl Washburn-Lander and let her know whether afternoon or evening works for you on one of those two days. cherylynn.sb@gmail.com

SOUP DINNERS ON WEDNESDAYS

We will continue our tradition of offering a simple meal of soup and bread after our Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgies during Great Lent. Please see the online sign-up for our final two soup dinners (April 2 & 9) https://bit.lv/LentenSoupDinners2025

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND OUR LENTEN FOOD DRIVE for the local Food Bank. See the flyer on the shelf in the hallway for MOST NEEDED items. Thank you!

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT — "CULTIVATING A SPIRIT OF REPENTANCE"

Our diocese is hosting a Young Adult Lenten Retreat on Saturday, April 5th at St. Peter's parish (2200 N. Orange Grove Ave., Pomona, CA 91767) from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Fr. Thomas Miller will be the presenter. Lunch will be provided. Please register by Wednesday, 4/2/25 at:

https://bit.ly/YAretreat2025

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."

Fr. Symeon will stay with Arabic for a few weeks until we all get used to responding.

English Peace be to all. And to thy spirit.

Arabic As-sa-la-mu li-ja- í-kum. Wuh-li wou-ee-kah

SCHEDULE FOR GREAT LENT

During the remaining 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 (except for 3/24, which will be Vespers for Annunciation)
 - Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays
 - Akathist on Fridays
- Thursday, April 3rd Canon of St. Andrew & Life of St. Mary of Egypt
 - SOUL LITURGY on Saturdays March 29

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Birthdays

- 3/30 Amelia Rose Macdonald
- 4/1 Amal Mashhour
- 4/2 Levi Denny, Christina Shackelford
- 4/3 Donna Friesen, Timmy Palmer
- 4/4 Duane Franzen
- 4/5 Corina Berari

Patronal Saint's Day

4/1 St. Mary of Egypt Corie Sieck, Corina Berari, Kristen Roberts, Melissa Wayne, Valerie Yova

2025 Divine Services for Holy & Great Week and Pascha at St. Athanasius Orthodox Church in Santa Barbara, CA

(Also available on the parish Google Calendar and at: https://www.stathanasius.org/resources/downloads-resources/)

Lazarus Saturday

The festal transition from the end of Lent to beginning of Holy Week.

Friday, April 11 6 PM Little Compline with Canon of Raising of Lazarus Saturday, April 12 9 AM Hierarchichal Divine Liturgy with Bp. ANTHONY

Baptisms/Chrismations

Parish Work Party following Coffee Hour to prepare for Holy Week and Pascha

Palm Sunday

The Great Feast of the Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem
Saturday, April 12 5:30 PM Great Vespers for Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 13 9 AM Orthros with the Blessing of Palms

10 AM Divine Liturgy with Procession with Palms

Allowance for Fish, Wine & Oil for the feast.

HOLY WEEK

Service commemorations begin Sunday evening in anticipation

Sunday, April 13 6 PM Bridegroom Orthros for Great Monday

Strict fasting resumes

Great & Holy Monday

The Commemoration of the Patriarch Joseph as a Prototype of the Lord's Passion

April 14 9 AM Presanctified Liturgy

6 PM Bridegroom Orthros for Great Tuesday

Great & Holy Tuesday

The Commemoration of the Parable of the Ten Virgins

April 15 9 AM Presanctified Litus

April 15 9 AM Presanctified Liturgy
6 PM Bridegroom Orthros for Great Wednesday

Great & Holy Wednesday

The Commemoration of the Sinful Woman Who Repented Contrasted with Judas

April 16 9 AM Presanctified Liturgy

6 PM The Sacrament of Holy Unction

Great & Holy Thursday

The Inauguration of the Mystical Supper of the Lord

April 17 8 AM Orthros for Holy Thursday

9 AM Vesperal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper, *followed by*

The Rite of the Washing of the Twelve's Feet

6 PM Orthros for Holy Friday, with the Passion Gospels,

the Procession to Golgotha, and Nailing to the Cross

Great & Holy Friday

The Passion, Crucifixion, and Burial of Our Lord

April 18 9 AM The Great Hours & Typika for Holy Friday

3 PM Vespers with the Removal of Christ from the Cross

6 PM Orthros for Holy Saturday

with Burial Lamentations and Procession of the Bier

Great & Holy Saturday

The Harrowing and Despoliation of Hades by Our Lord

April 19 9 AM Vesperal Liturgy of the Harrowing of Hades

Great & Holy Sunday: PASCHA

The Bodily Resurrection of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ from the Dead.

April 20 4:45 AM Nocturnes

5 AM Rush Service, Orthros, and Divine Liturgy

The fast is broken. All foods are allowed.

9 AM Agape Vespers

with Gospel Reading in Many Languages

Join us for the After-feast!

A Festal Agape Meal and an Egg Hunt will take place on the church patio immediately after the Liturgy. We will continue our celebration with BBQ and Games at 3 PM over at Tucker's Grove Park. Let us share abundantly in the joy of the Lord's Resurrection.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

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)

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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. Randall B. Michael Fr. Joseph A. Jim M. Gayla

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 Gianpaul Caceres Jacob Feinstein Isaak Lau **Brennan Pawley** Diego Rangel Ethan Salcedo Logan Strait

For repose of the souls of: Fr. David O., Fr. Wayne 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, March 30 — Sun of St. John of Climacus

9:00 a.m. Matins & Catechesis 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 11:30 a.m. Teen Education 11:45 a.m. Agape Meal

4:00 p.m. St. Barbara Monastery Friends

Monday, March 31—Repose of St. Innocent

7:00 a.m. Daily Readers' Matins

3:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom

6:00 p.m. Great Compline

Tuesday, April 1—St. Mary of Egypt

5:00-6:30 p.m. Fr. Symeon hearing Confessions

Wednesday, April 2—Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel

7:00 a.m. Daily Readers' Matins

11:50 a.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry (in the chapel)

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 3

7:45 a.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom

10:00 a.m. Showers of Blessing

5:00-5:45 p.m. Fr. Symeon available for Confessions
6:00 p.m. Little Compline with Canon of St. Andrew and reading of Life of St. Mary of Egypt

NO YOUTH GROUP

Friday, April 4

7:00 a.m. Matins

5-5:45 p.m. Fr. Symeon hearing Confessions

6:00 p.m. Akathist

Saturday, April 5

1:00-4:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

5:30 p.m. Great Vespers/Confessions

Sunday, April 6—SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT

9:00 a.m. Matins & Catechesis 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 11:30 a.m. Teen Education 11:45 a.m. Agape Meal

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCHARIST BREAD

March 30 Meyer April 6 Dn. G. Braun

April 12 Jacobs (Lazarus Saturday) April 13 Fr. Nicholas (Palm Sunday)

April 19 Dillon April 20 Kern

READERS

March 30 Butler

April 2 Meyer (Presanctified)

April 6 Kern

April 9 Gish (Presanctified)
April 12 Lange (Lazarus Saturday)
April 12 Alexander (Vespers)

April 13 Butler

GREETERS

March 30
April 6
April 13
April 20
H. Lange/M. Loulias
A. G. Butler/C. Clements
A. Ballew/N. Aviles
TBA

USHERS

March 30
April 6
April 13
April 20
P. King/D. Alexander
K.L. King, J. King
D. Meyer/D. Washburn
S. Speier/C. Speier

AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

March 30 Team Worthington
April 6 Team Aviles/Wood
April 13 PALM SUNDAY POTLUCK
April 20 PASCHA BREAKFAST

PASCHA CELEBRATION

Sunday, April 20, 2025

4:45 a.m. Nocturnes

5:00 a.m. Paschal Procession & Rush (Matins) Service 6:15 a.m. Paschal Liturgy and Blessing of Meat, Cheese

and our Baskets

8:00 a.m. Break-fast on the patio — Bring your own Pascha basket.

The church will provide:

Pascha eggs

Meats (breakfast sausage, bacon and ham)

Pascha cheese

Bread

Strawberries

Coffee, tea, hot cocoa, juice, chocolate milk, water

8:30 a.m. Egg Hunt for the kids in the field behind the church

9:00 a.m. Agape Vespers

3:00 p.m. Picnic at Tucker's Grove

(Includes BBQ'd tri-tip, chili, and side dishes.)

Attendees will need to provide their own beverages, utensils, cups, plates, napkins, tablecloth & a side dish or salad to share.

(There will be no charge for the picnic, thanks to several generous sponsors, but donations will be welcome in the food line.)

PARENTS: For the egg hunt

- Please bring **one dozen FILLED PLASTIC EGGS** for each child (preschool through Grade 6) who will be participating.
- Bags will be provided for the kids to use when collecting eggs.
- Filled eggs need to be brought to the church **no later than 6:00 a.m. on Pascha morning.** There will be a cart in the hallway near the church office where you can drop off eggs throughout Holy Week.
- Please mark the filled eggs according to the age of your child:

Pre-school/Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, or Grades 4-6.

Questions? Contact Christie Robinson: christie.d.robinson@gmail.com

If you do not have children participating but would like to donate eggs for the hunt for children who might be visiting that day, or for a particular family in the parish, your donations are welcome! Please let Christie know.



WATCH FOR THE SIGN-UP LINKS TO HELP WITH SET-UP & CLEAN-UP & TO BRING MEATS FOR THE BREAKFAST, AND TO BRING SIDE DISHES TO THE PICNIC.

COMING SOON!!