



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
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Teen Program Coordinator

Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

College/Young Adult Activities Coordinators

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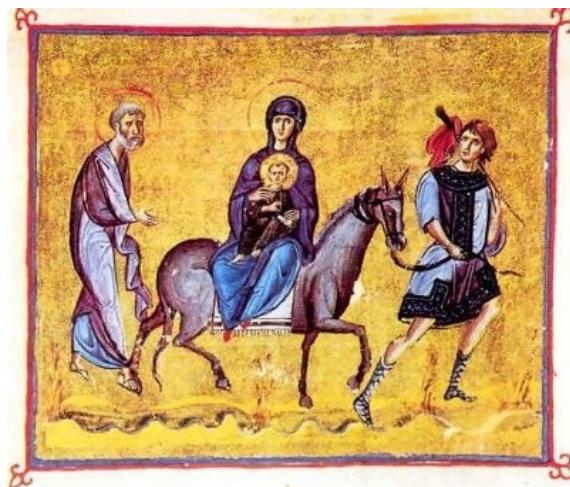
DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Tone 2 / Eothinon 5

**After-feast of & Sunday after
the Nativity of Christ**

Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed,
David the Prophet and King,
and James the Brother of the Lord



The Flight into Egypt of Joseph, the Theotokos & the Christ Child

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**

THE GREAT LITANY

First Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Ps. 111)

Verse: I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known. In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord!

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

Verse: They are sought out according to His will. Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. **[Refrain]**

Verse: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **[Refrain]**

Second Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Ps. 112)

Verse: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Verse: Glory and wealth are in his house and his righteousness endures forever. **Refrain]**

Verse: Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous. **[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 for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Ps. 110)

Chanter: The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.”

Refrain: **TROPARION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST:**
Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore Thee,
the Sun of righteousness,
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to Thee!

Chanter: The Lord will send Thee the scepter of power from Zion: “Rule in the midst of Thine enemies.” **Refrain: Thy nativity, O Christ our God...**

Chanter: With Thee is dominion on the day of Thy birth, in the radiance of holiness. **Refrain: Thy nativity, O Christ our God...**

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

Troparion of the Resurrection

Tone 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death,
O Thou deathless and immortal One,
then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly pow’r,
and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth,
all the pow’rs of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee.
O Christ, Thou art the Giver of life, Glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Nativity of Christ

Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
hath given rise to the Light of knowledge in the world,
for they who did worship the stars
did learn from them to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice,
and to know that Thou didst come from the east of the Highest.
Glory to Thee O Lord!

Troparion for Sunday after Nativity of Christ

Tone 2

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
You saw a Virgin great with child;
You gave glory with the shepherds;
You worshipped with the Magi;
You received the news from the Angel.
Pray to 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 for the Nativity of Christ**Tone 8**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
The wise men journey with the star,
since for our sakes the eternal God is born as a little child!

TRISAGION (THRICE-HOLY) HYMN

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.

Prokeimenon—Preparatory Psalm Verses before the Epistle**Tone 4**

God is wonderful in His Saints, the God of Israel.

Verse: In the churches bless ye God the Lord, from the
Fountains of Israel.

**EPISTLE READING
Galatians.1:11-19**

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Preparatory Psalm Verses with Alleluia Refrain Before the Gospel

Tone 2

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Verse: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble!
May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! (Ps
19/20:1)

Verse: O Lord, save the King in the day we call on Thee! (Ps
19/20:9)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:13-23

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Meglynarion for the Feast of the Nativity—Hymn to the Mother of God

O my soul, magnify her who is more hon'orable and who is more glorious than the heav'nly host. A mystery I behold which is strange and wondrous, the cave is heav'n, and the virgin is the throne of the Cherubim, in the confines of the manger is laid the infinite, Christ our god, whom we praise and magnify.

Communion of the Clergy

The Lord has sent redemption to His people, 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, 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 anti-doron (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

THERE ARE NO SUNDAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES TODAY.

CONGRATULATIONS & MANY YEARS to Subdeacon Michael and Margaret Easbey on the birth of their son, Alban Richard, on Monday, December 23rd. He arrived into the world at 9 pounds and 22 inches. Congratulations, also, to siblings Farley, Jimmy and Silas, and to Grandmothers June Easbey and Violet Gray.

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

SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Sunday, Dec. 29 Blessing of the Graves, Goleta Cemetery 1:00 p.m.

OTHER UPCOMING FEASTS & SPECIAL SERVICES

| | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| Wednesday, Jan. 1 | Divine Liturgy for Feasts of St. Basil & Circumcision of Christ | 9:00 a.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 3 | Royal Hours of Theophany "10th Day of Christmas" Family Night | 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, Jan. 4 | Great Vespers of Theophany | 5:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, Jan. 5 | (Our celebration of Theophany will be transferred to Jan. 5th.) Festal Matins & Liturgy of Theophany with Reception of Converts (Baptism/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 ALL VEHICLES | At end of Liturgy |
| Saturday, Jan. 18 | Divine Liturgy for Feast of St. Athanasius followed by Chili Cookoff/Brunch | 9:00 a.m. |

ADULT CATECHISM SCHEDULE

WINTER 2024

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”

FINANCIAL UPDATE January-November, 2024

| | <u>Actual Income</u> | <u>Budget Goal</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Tithes received in Nov. | \$ 70,263 | \$ 57,417 (includes mortgage of \$ 20,555) |
| Tithes received Jan.-Nov. | \$ 605,126 | \$631,587 (includes mortgage of \$226,105) |
| Nov. Temple donations | \$ 4,515 | |
| Jan.-Nov. Temple donations | \$ 63,443 | |

Balance in Temple Fund Nov. 30, 2024

\$ 933,591
(includes proceeds from Golf Tournament)

Total expenses Jan– Nov. \$ 731,258 (includes \$11,921 off-budget expenses for
tree removal/trimming & patio umbrellas)

Total income Jan.– Nov. \$ 704,659

DEFICIT Jan.-Nov.: **\$ 26,599** (This includes an unexpected extra \$10,000 in
salaries due to a change in the pay cycle, mandated by
State of CA. Not an actual added expense, just a
reporting issue for this fiscal year.)

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Wedding Anniversaries

12/31 Penny and Michael Loulias

Birthdays

12/29 Gabriel Aviles, Karen Jacobs, Ruslan Moskalyk

1/1 Nikolay Nikolov

Patronal Feast Days

December 29 — Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

St. Joseph the Betrothed Dn. Scott Jacobs, Gage Salinas

King David

David Dillon, Jon King, David Lewis, David McCalmont, Jared Speier, David Washburn

St. James, the Brother of Jesus Richard Barre, Jim Morrison

1/1 **St. Emelia** Emilia Rose Macdonald

1/1 **St. Gregory of Nazianzus, the Elder** Glenn Hoppe

1/2 **St. Juliana of Lazarevo** Juliet Macdonald

1/2 **St. Seraphim of Sorov** Natasha Carr

1/4 **St. Jason, Apostle of the 70** Jason Wallace

On the TENTH Day of Christmas, our Family Night will be...



Come celebrate with your Church Family!



SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, January 3, 2025 at 6pm

If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument,
please consider putting something together for the show!

Contact Jan Speier or Mary Penny for more information.

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. Mathias in Tanzania (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
Kevin Duke
Greg & Miki Hammel
Isaak Lau
Brennan Pawley
Ethan Salcedo
Logan Strait

For repose of the souls of: Mat. 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, December 29

NO SUNDAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m. Teen Education
11:45 a.m. Agape Meal
1:00 p.m. Blessing of the Graves at Goleta Cemetery

Monday, December 30

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

Tuesday, December 31

NO VESPERS

Wednesday, January 1—FAST-FREE

FEASTS OF ST. BASIL & THE CIRCUMCISION

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for Feast of St. Basil and Circumcision of Christ
11:50 a.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry (in the chapel)

Thursday, January 2—ST. SERAPHIM

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

Friday, January 3—FAST-FREE

NO MATINS

9:00 a.m. Royal Hours of Theophany
6:00 p.m. "Tenth Day of Christmas"
FAMILY NIGHT

Saturday, January 4

5:30 p.m. Great Vespers of the Feast of Theophany/
Confessions

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

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCHARIST BREAD

December 29 Jacobs
January 5 Hoppe
January 12 Dillon
January 19 Morrison

READERS

December 29 Alexander
January 1 Alexander
January 3 All readers available (Royal Hours)
January 4 Lsnge (Vespers of Theophany)
January 5 Butler
January 12 Meyer
January 18 Kern (St. Athanasius Liturgy)
January 19 Gish

GREETERS

December 29 J. & M. Worthington
January 5 A. Ballew/N. Aviles
January 12 G. Hoppe/B. Eberhard
January 19 K.P. King/L. Baker

USHERS

December 29 D. Alexander/D. Washburn
January 5 P. King/J. King
January 12 K.L. King/D. Meyer
January 19 M. Loulias/D. Washburn

AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

December 29 Team Speier
January 5 Beverages Only
Outdoor Blessing of Water at 1pm
January 12 McIntire (Ethiopian Cuisine)
January 19 Team Worthington

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Los Angeles
And The West

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Nativity in the flesh of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 25, 2024

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فمجدوه!

Love swings back and forth between hope and hurt. The Father in heaven had high hopes for His Son on earth to rescue His creation for Him, returning it to its original meaning and destiny. The Little One who lay in a manger outside the comfort and crowd of the Inn, as baby and from then on to the Cross, from cradle to Cross, would, in the deepest sense, always be alone, on His own, and never at home anywhere. This prophet was not welcome in the town He grew up in. Therefore, He wandered as a homeless person. The Father would feel the hurt of this homelessness and hear the Blessed One say He had nowhere to lay His head.

I had thought there were two dramatic moments in Christ's life when He truly could rest and lay His head down in peace; one is when He was born and His mother held Him, the other was in the quiet tomb while the crowds were gone and the noise of darkness stopped. He rose from the sleep of death, folded His cloth pillow neatly, and left resurrected and triumphant.

Christmas has me pray for and hurt for all of the little ones now, outside the comfort of warm homes, away in the wilderness of foreign places, traveling in the night to Egypt, far from the Bethlehem of their birth. The Father hurts for them who are made in the image of His son and so are made for Him.

Let us give them a home somewhere and show them there is love in every city, in the City of Peace.

Christ changed the hurt of the Cross into the help of the Father through His obedience, as a good Son always is, for the hope of us all. He saved us to become saviors, even when it hurts.

May He who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation bless you always.

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY

Bishop of Los Angeles
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

Chancery of Los Angeles and the West
454 South Lorraine Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90020