



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 December 3, 2023

**Tone 1 / Eothinon 4; Twenty-sixth Sunday after
Pentecost & Fourteenth Sunday of Luke**

The Holy Prophet Zephaniah;
Martyrs Agapios, Seleukos and Mamas;
Venerable Theodoulos, Eparch of Constantinople;
Venerable Theodoulos of Cyprus



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

HOLY COMMUNION

In the Orthodox Church, the sacrament of Communion is offered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive through prayer and recent Confession. Non-Orthodox believers and others **may approach the chalice for a blessing and the blessed bread.** So that the priest is aware of this, please just say, *“Father, bless” when you get to the chalice.*

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

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 was 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 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews,
and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst arise on the third day,
O Savior, granting life to the world.
For which cause the heavenly pow'rs
cried aloud unto Thee, O Giver of life;
Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy kingdom!
Glory to Thy providence, O Thou
Who alone art the lover of mankind.

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 Preparation of Christ's Nativity**Tone 3**

The virgin cometh today to the cave
to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal.
Therefore, rejoice, O earth, at the message;
with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him
Who shall appear by His own will as a young child,
He who is from eternity God.

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 1**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee. (Ps 32/33:22)

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise is becoming to the upright.

EPISTLE READING**Ephesians 5:8-19**

Brethren, walk as children of light—for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true—and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Alleluia before the Gospel

Tone 1

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Verse: It is God Who avenges me, and subdues people under me. (*Ps 17/18:47*)

Verse: He gives great deliverance to His King, and shows mercy to His anointed, to David and his seed forever. (*Ps 17/18:50*)

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:35-43

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Meglynarion—Hymn to the Mother of God

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 Hymns

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanksgiving Prayers after Communion

(Blessing of the Agape Meal will follow the prayers.)

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, we offer the prayers of thanksgiving for having received the Body and Blood of Christ. These beautiful prayers help us to reflect on the mystery in which we have just partaken, and prepare us for our transition back into the "world." We invite you to listen to these beautiful prayers during and after the veneration of the cross at the end of the service, and **ask that all of your socializing take place outside of the church.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF YOU HAVE ONE (OR MORE) OF THE LITURGY SERVICE BOOKLETS at home, particularly the spiral bound booklets, please consider bringing them back to the church to be used on Sunday mornings. Thanks!

PLEASE NOTE: VESPERS FOR THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS WILL BE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, not on December 6th, as previously announced. We expect a “surprise visitor” that night, and the children will be invited to leave their shoes in the chapel during the service so that holy St. Nicholas can leave them a gift.

JOIN US FOR FAMILY NIGHT on Friday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m. when we will celebrate the season with music, refreshments and fellowship. To sign up to bring a few dozen cookies or to lend a hand with set-up or clean-up, go to:

<https://bit.ly/FamilyNightSignup>

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR MISSION TEAM on a homebuilding trip to Project Mexico this summer from July 30-August 5, please talk with Fr. Symeon. The deadline for Early Bird registration is December 15th. Each team member will need to register him/herself online and pay the \$100 registration fee. Each team member will also be asked to pay part of their own fee and to assist with group fundraising for the remaining fees.



Women's Fellowship Christmas Breakfast **Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

Women and girls of St. Athanasius:

Join us as we prepare to
celebrate the birth of our newborn King!
Breakfast, brief message, singing and fellowship await you!

Suggested donation \$8 per person (\$5 for children)
with proceeds supporting the local work of Hope Refuge.

If you did not receive the Evite, you can access it here:

<https://bit.ly/ChristmasBreakfast2023>

STEWARDSHIP MONTH

**Have you filled out your commitment card for 2024?
You can still fill one out this morning and give it to the Greeter.**

TODAY all of the stewardship commitment cards received thus far for 2024 will be put on the altar table during the Liturgy as an “offering,” and we will pray that our commitments for the coming year will be blessed.

Prayer over Pledged Offerings

O Creator and Author of the human race; Giver of all spiritual Graces, Bestower of eternal Salvation: do Thou, the same Lord, send down Thy Holy Spirit with a blessing from on high upon *these Pledged Offerings of our Time, Talents, and Treasures*, which we offer to Thee with thanksgiving in response to the awesome gifts that we have received, for all that Thou wilt give and provide for us, and for all we are called to become in Thee. May our offerings be as the first fruits of Abel, the tithe of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and our forefathers of old, and the free-will offerings of all our forebears in the faith, all those who desired Thy blessing and to be pleasing in Thy sight. May these be a sacrifice unto communion with Thee and a token of the living sacrifice of our lives as was offered up by Abraham and his seed forever. By these pledged offerings of gratitude, we ask that our parish be blessed to fulfill Thy commands to love Thee with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Bless these offerings so that we may become in the depths of our being what Thou art in the unfathomable depths of Thy abundant love and graciousness from which Thou dost constantly provide us gifts; that, fortified by the might of Thy heavenly protection, these may be potent unto salvation and help and aid unto all who shall make use of them.

Through grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who together with Thee, the Eternal Father, and Thy All Holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, do we ascribe glory, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE DECEMBER & JANUARY

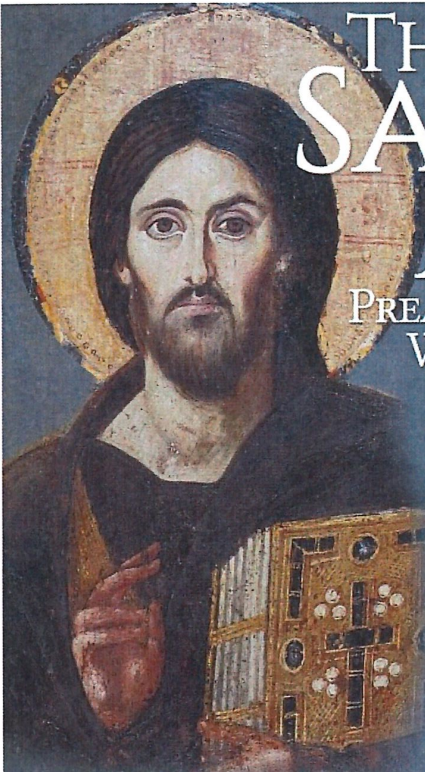
Advent Paraklesis	Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. (Dec. 13 & 20)
Feast of St. Barbara	Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m.—Vigil at the St. Barbara Monastery Monday, December 4 at 10 am—Divine Liturgy at Monastery
St. Nicholas Vespers	Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m. Visit by St. Nicholas, children's shoes filled, refreshments (PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE to DEC. 5th.)
Family Night	Friday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. Musical entertainment, carols, refreshments and FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Due to the fact that the feast of the Nativity falls on a Monday this year, our service schedule will be slightly different than usual:

Royal Hours of Nativity	Friday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m.
Great Vespers of Sunday before Nativity	Saturday, December 23 at 5:30 p.m.
Matins & Liturgy of Sunday before Nativity	Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 a.m./10:00 a.m.
Matins & Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity	Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 p.m.
Slaughter of the Holy Innocents	Thursday, December 28, Vespers at 5:30 p.m. We will commemorate infants who have died in childbirth or as a result of miscarriage, premature birth or abortion.
Circumcision of Christ & St. Basil the Great	Sunday, December 31st transferred from Monday, January 1st. We will follow our regular weekend schedule of services.
Theophany	Friday, January 5, 2024 Royal Hours at 9:00 a.m. Matins at 4:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy & Reception of Converts at 5:30 p.m.
St. Athanasius the Great	Wednesday, January 17—PARISH FEAST DAY Vespers at 5:30 p.m./Liturgy at 6:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION
Opens December 1st

- WATCH LIVE FROM ANYWHERE
- JOIN US IN PERSON
- WATCH LATER WHENEVER YOU WANT




THE
SACRED
ARTS

PREACHING THE GOSPEL
WITHOUT WORDS
LENTEN RETREAT

FR. MAXIMOS
CONSTAS

JONATHAN
PAGEAU

MARCH 29 - 31, 2024
ST. ANDREW ORTHODOX CHURCH
RIVERSIDE, CA & LIVESTREAM
REGISTER AT
CONFERENCE.PATRISTICNECTAR.ORG



PATRISTIC
NECTAR
AMERICA

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
Fr. Markos
Fr. Jon B.
Fr. John & Kh. Diane C.
Fr. Nicholas & Jan
Audrey C.
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.
Abp. Benjamin
Temmo K.
Sarah B..
Dn. John & Fay Y.
Zachary B.
Samantha & Chris N. & Family
Kevin D. & Family
Stephan & Rosa K.
Ethan K.
Erik L.
Matthew
Nina & Erik Sr.
Anthony & Christina and Family
Hannah Rose
Leticia B.
Kari H.
Carol J.
Suzy W.
Adam and Family
Madison E.
Susan W.
David W.

Dave D.
Roman N.
Eloise G.
Jim M.
Wade
Amanda Catherine

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: Euphemia, Eliana, Svetlana, Fr. Paul E.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Birthdays

12/3 David McCalmont
12/5 Elizabeth Ballew
12/9 Amber Brunner, Teri Lynn Palmer, Jesse Speier

Patronal Feast Days

12/4 **Martyr Juliana** Juliana Brunner, Juliana Shackelford
12/4 **Martyr Barbara** Cheryl Washburn Lander, Alicia Wolfington
12/6 **St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**
Nicholas Berari, Nicholas Butler,
Nikolay Nikolov, Fr. Nicholas Speier, Nikolai Rice
12/9 **Hannah, Mother of the Prophet Samuel** Hannah Sieck

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 3

9:00 a.m. Matins
9:00 a.m. Catechesis for children 3yrs-6th grade
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m. Teen Education
11:45 a.m. Agape Meal
12:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
4:00 p.m. Vigil for Feast of St. Barbara at St. Barbara Monastery in Ojai followed by potluck supper

Monday, December 4—ST. BARBARA

7:00 a.m. Daily Reader's Matins
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at St. Barbara Monastery for feast of St. Barbara & Luncheon
6:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom (Akathist for St. Nikiforos)

Tuesday, December 5

6:00 p.m. VESPERS FOR ST. NICHOLAS

Wednesday, December 6—ST. NICHOLAS

7:00 a.m. Daily Reader's Matins
12:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry at the church
NO PARAKLESIS

Thursday, December 7

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, December 8

7:00 a.m. Daily Matins
7:00 p.m. Family Night

Saturday, December 9-CONCEPTION of Theotokos

5:30 p.m. Vespers/Confession

Sunday, December 10

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

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

December 3 Dillon
December 10 Morrison
December 17 Dn. G. Braun
December 24 Fr. Nicholas (morning)
December 24 M. Kern (evening)

READERS

December 3 Alexander
December 5 Kern (Vespers for St. Nicholas)
December 10 Gish
December 17 Kern
December 24 Butler (morning)
December 24 Lange (evening)

GREETERS

December 3 L. Baker
December 10 M. Loulias
December 17 K.P. King
December 24 H. Lange (morning)

USHERS

December 3 P. King/J. King
December 10 M. Loulias/K.L. King
December 17 S. Speier/C. Speier
December 24 D. Meyer/D. Alexander (morning)

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	Anthony Salcedo
Connor Clements	Ethan, Dominic Jennifer Salcedo

ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH BOOKSTORE

The church bookstore is located in the foyer of the fellowship hall - two enclosed cabinets containing 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. Payment should be made at time of purchase and placed in 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.
