



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 17, 2023

Tone 3 / Eothinon 6

Sunday of Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths:

Ananias, Azarias and Mishael;

Dionysios of Zakynthos, the Wonderworker



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 3

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad,
for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm.
He hath trampled down death by death
and become the first born from the dead.
He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades,
granting the world the great mercy.

Troparion of the Forefathers

Tone 4

Through faith You justified the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.
These saints exult in glory,
for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:
she who bore You without seed.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

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 8**

Chanter: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is
Your name forever.

Verse: For You are just in all that You have done for us.

EPISTLE READING—for the Holy Forefathers**Colossians 3:4-11**

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Alleluia before the Gospel

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps. 98:6)*

V. *They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps. 98:6)*

GOSPEL READING—for the Holy Forefathers

Luke 14:16-24

The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

WE WERE SAD TO HEAR OF the falling asleep in the Lord of Alan Wallerstedt, who was a founding member of our parish and who was part of the team who did the research and writing for the Orthodox Study Bible. Alan had moved back to his home state of Iowa this past year to be near family. Our condolences to Alan's family. May his memory be eternal.

HOUSE BLESSINGS

The priests look forward to this time of year when they bless your homes and have an opportunity to spend time with you. It is a joy for them! Contact one of our priests for an appointment to have your home blessed in January. We traditionally bless homes in January after the Feast of Theophany (January 6), however you can do this at almost any time of the year. If you move into a new home, you may not want to wait until the next time we celebrate Theophany to have your home blessed.

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

- The parish was gifted 2 used refrigerators from Cottage Hospital that we have been using since completion of the warming kitchen. One of these stopped working recently and the second is on its last leg. The Parish Council approved the purchase of 2 new refrigerators for the warming kitchen.
- The parish council approved roof maintenance and repair work to help preserve and extend the lifetime of our roof.

Recommended listening from Fr. Symeon

YouTube Channels

- Antiochian Archdiocese – <https://www.youtube.com/@antiochianorthodoxchristia9331/>
- AMEN (Men’s Ministry of the Diocese of Miami and the South) – <https://www.youtube.com/@AMENDOMSE/>
- Patristic Nectar Films (Fr. Josiah Trenhams’s online work) – <https://www.youtube.com/@PatristicNectarFilms/>
- The Royal Path (Fr. Turbo Qualls’ group podcast) – <https://www.youtube.com/@TheRoyalPath/>
- Orthodox Wisdom – <https://www.youtube.com/@OrthodoxWisdom/>
- Orthodox Teaching of the Elders – <https://www.youtube.com/@otelders/>
- Trisagion Films – <https://www.youtube.com/@Trisagionfilms/>
- Protecting Veil – <https://www.youtube.com/@ProtectingVeil/>
- Symbolic World – <https://www.youtube.com/@JonathanPageau/>
- Lives of Saints from Trisagion Films called “Saints of the Orthodox Church”
- Lives of Saints from Bible Illustrated called "The Reliquary"
- Lives of Saints from Orthodox Meme Squad

Podcasts

ANCIENT FAITH RADIO PODCASTS: (<https://www.ancientfaith.com/>)

- “The Path” where Fr. Thomas Soroka reads the daily scripture readings and thoughtful commentary by the Fathers.
- “Saint of the Day” is a reading of the life of a saint commemorated that day.
- "The Whole Counsel of God" by Fr. Stephen De Young offering a verse by verse Bible study.
- "Lord of Spirits" where Fr. Andrew Damick and Fr. Stephen De Young have a topical discussion about lesser known parts of scripture and tradition.
- “In a Certain Kingdom” by Dn. Nicholas Kotar retelling Russian fairy tales with commentary at the end.
- “As Iron Sharpens Iron” is a collection of teaching geared toward men.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

November 2023

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Budget Goal</u>
Tithes received in November	\$ 48,767	\$ 57,461 (includes \$20,555 for mortgage)
Tithes received Jan.-Nov.	\$566,228	\$632,071 (includes \$266,101 for mortgage)
November Temple donations	\$ 4,265	
Jan.-Nov. Temple donations	\$ 176,740	
Temple Fund Balance	\$ 697,523	(includes Golf Tournament proceeds)
Total General Operating expenses Jan– Nov.		\$ 702,466
Total General Operating income Jan.– Nov.		<u>\$ 654,904</u>
DEFICIT for first 11 months		\$ 47,562

UPCOMING SCHEDULE DECEMBER & JANUARY

Advent Paraklesis Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. (Dec. 13 & 20)

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.

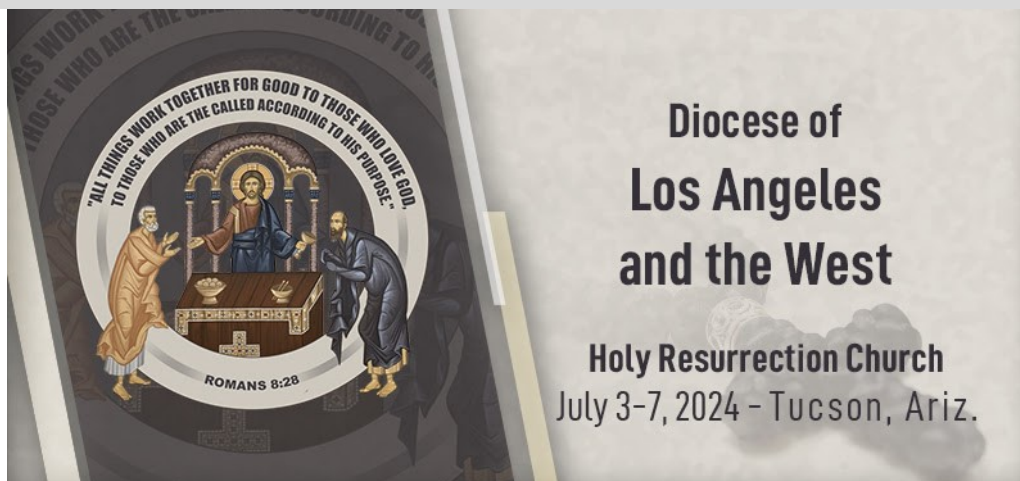
Sunday, January 7, 2024 OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER
at the Santa Barbara Harbor with
St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

St. Athanasius the Great Wednesday, January 17—PARISH FEAST DAY
Vespers at 5:30 p.m./Liturgy at 6:30 p.m.

PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE 2024

Online registration:

<https://www.antiochianevents.org/events/diocese-of-los-angeles-and-the-west-3/>



CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Birthdays

- 12/17 Jon King
- 12/18 Dorothy Alexander
- 12/22 Zoe Macdonald, Alexander Nikolov, Zachary Nikolov

Patron Saint Commemorations

12/17 Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

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

Daniel the Prophet Dan Braun, Garrett Gish, Jase Daniel Speier

Jacob Jacob Palmer

Jesse Jesse Palmer, Jesse Speier

Adam Adam King

Rebekah Rebekah Dillon

Ruth Taylor Eberhard, Liz Hoppe, Naomi Siragusa, Fay Young

Judith Judy Braun

Aaron Howard Lange

12/17 **St. Miriam** Miriam Vander Laan

12/18 **St. Zoe of Rome** Zoe Macdonald

12/20 **St. John of Kronstadt** Jill Wallerstedt

12/22 **Great Martyr Anastasia** Anastasia Brunner

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
Darcy

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: Alan W., Fr. Michael O., Cathy, Euphemia, Eliana, Svetlana

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 17

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

Monday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Daily Reader's Matins
 6:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom
 (Akathist for St. Nikiforos)
 7:00 p.m. Men's Fireside at Carralejo residence

Tuesday, December 19

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

Wednesday, December 20

7:00 a.m. Daily Reader's Matins
 12:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry at the church
 6:00 p.m. Advent Paraklesis

Thursday, December 21

7:45 a.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom
 10:00 a.m. Showers of Blessing
 5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers
NO YOUTH GROUP

Friday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Royal Hours of Nativity

Saturday, December 23

5:30 p.m. Vespers/Confession

Sunday, December 24

9:00 a.m. Matins
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
 11:45 a.m. Agape Meal
 10:00 p.m. FEAST OF NATIVITY
 Matins followed by Liturgy

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

December 17 Dn. G. Braun
 December 24 Fr. Nicholas (morning)
 December 24 Kern (evening)
 December 31 Jacobs
 January 7 Meyer

READERS

December 17 Kern
 December 24 Butler (morning)
 December 24 Lange (evening)
 December 30 Kern (Vespers)
 December 31 Alexander
 January 6 TBA
 January 7 TBA

GREETERS

December 17 K.P. King
 December 24 H. Lange (morning)
 December 31 M. Loulias
 January 7 L. Baker

USHERS

December 17 S. Speier/C. Speier
 December 24 D. Meyer/D. Alexander (morning)
 December 31 K.L. King/D. Washburn
 January 7 P. King/J. King

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

ADVENT/NATIVITY FAMILY NIGHT 2023

