



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 31, 2023

Tone 5 / Eothinon 8

Sunday before Theophany of Christ,
which Falls on the Leave-taking of the
Nativity of Christ
and the Feasts of The Circumcision of Christ
and the Feast of St. Basil the Great
(transferred from January 1)
Venerable Melania the Younger of Rome



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

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

FIRST ANTIPHON—Psalm verses with refrain for the Feast of the Circumcision

Vs. Shout with jubilation unto the Lord all the earth. Chant ye unto His name, give glory in praise of Him. [Refrain]

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

Vs. Say unto God: How awesome are Thy works! In the multitude of Thy power, shall Thine enemies be proved false unto Thee. [Refrain]

Vs. Glory...now & ever...Amen. [Refrain]

SECOND ANTIPHON—Psalm verses with refrain for the Feast of the Circumcision

Vs. Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice. Sing unto the Lord; chant unto His Name.

Refrain: O Son Of God Who was circumcised in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Vs. Out of Zion is the magnificence of His comeliness. [Refrain]

Vs. Our God is in heaven and on earth; whatsoever He hath willed, He hath done. 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 Circumcision

Vs. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever.

Refrain Troparion of the Feast in Tone 1:

Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Your divine Spirit
O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth
of the unwedded handmaid, your Mother.
Therefore You were circumcised as an eight-day old Child.
Glory to Your most gracious counsel;
glory to Your dispensation;
Glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of mankind.

Vs. With my mouth will I tell of Thy truth. (Refrain)

Vs. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity. (Refrain)

HYMNS SUNG AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:

Troparion of the Resurrection

Tone 5

Let us believers praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born of the Virgin for our salvation.
For He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh
to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion of the Nativity of Christ

Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shown 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!

Troparion for the Feast of the Circumcision

Tone 1

Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Your divine Spirit,
O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth
of the unwedded handmaid, your Mother.
Therefore You were circumcised as an eight-day old Child.
Glory to Your most gracious counsel;
Glory to Your dispensation;
Glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of mankind.

Troparion for St. Basil the Great

Tone 1

Your proclamation has gone out into all the earth
which was divinely taught by hearing your voice.
You expounded the nature of creatures
and ennobled the manners of men.
Venerable Father of royal priesthood,
entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

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 Feast of the Circumcision

Tone 3

The Lord of all accepts to be circumcised,
thus as He is good He excises the sins of mortal men.
Today He grants the world salvation,
while light-bearing Basil, high priest of our Creator,
rejoices in heaven as a divine initiate of Christ.

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

My mouth shall speak wisdom, the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

Verse: Hear this, all people! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world!

EPISTLE READING
Colossians 2:8-12

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in Him, Who is the head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.

Preparatory Psalm Verses with Alleluia Refrain Before the Gospel

Tone 8

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

Vs. O shepherd of Israel, attend. (Ps. 79/80: 1)

Vs. The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom.

GOSPEL READING
Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

And it came to pass that the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when they saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why hast Thou treated us so? Behold, Thy father and I have been looking for Thee anxiously." And Jesus said to them, "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

MEGALYNARION—Hymn to the Mother of God sung during the Liturgy of St. Basil

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 OF THE CLERGY

- Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)
- Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps 32/33:1*)

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

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.**

UPCOMING SCHEDULE JANUARY 2024

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY WE WILL BLESS THE GRAVES at Goleta Cemetery at 1:00 p.m.

WE OFFER OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO SHIRLEY DILLON and the entire Dillon family on the departing from this life of Shirley's mother, Cathy Jane Van Dyk, on December 7th. May her memory be eternal.

CONGRATULATIONS to Chandler Baker and Naomi Siragusa on becoming engaged over the Christmas weekend. May God guide them and grant them many years!

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.

REGARDING 2023 TITHES...

The church will accept tithes and donations for the 2023 fiscal year up through Sunday, January 7th. Please be sure to date checks these next two Sundays for the year for which they are intended.

Checks received after January 7th will be credited towards 2024, 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.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Wedding Anniversaries

12/31 Penny and Michael Loulias

Birthdays

1/1 Nikolay Nikolov

1/4 Phillip Kawahara

Patronal Feast Days

December 31 — 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	Seraphim Cisneros
1/4	St. Jason, Apostle of the 70	Jason Wallace

Fr. Demetrio Swanson is the resident priest at St. Innocent Orphanage in Tijuana/Rosarito, Mexico. He is pictured here with his wife, Prebytera Sophia, and their four children.

For the past year, our parish has supported his work at the orphanage with a monthly donation from our General Operating Budget.

Your monthly tithes enable our parish to support Orthodox missionaries in three different locations around the world:

- Mexico
- Albania
- Africa



THE CHILDREN'S RELIEF FUND (CRF)

The Children's Relief Fund (CRF) is a program within our Antiochian Archdiocese which was founded in 1983, and provides funds for the children in need in Lebanon and Palestine, and the children of Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

The CRF, under the Department of Charitable Outreach, has been a blessing to hundreds of needy children and their families.

Since 1983, the CRF has provided close to \$4 million in aid. 100% of donations go directly to the sponsored child and no money is used for administrative services.

SPONSORSHIP

Through the CRF, sponsoring a child is easy. Child sponsorship is an opportunity to personally connect with a child and work alongside their family and community as they work on lasting solutions to the causes that keep vulnerable children from reaching their God given potential.

You can help change the life of a child by being a sponsor for as little as \$400 a year, just \$7.69 per week, \$1.10 per day. Donations in any amount are always welcome. Once you sponsor a child, CRF will send you the child's name, age, address and a brief biography. Your child will correspond with you, sending you letters and pictures about their life. You will be able to develop a special bond and personal relationship with them.

Your assistance will improve the lives of these children and give them a chance for a better future.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child, you can do so online here:

<https://antiochian.networkforgood.com/projects/127989-the-children-s-relief-fund>

You can contact the CRF at childrensrelieffund@gmail.com.

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.
Suzi 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 31

Transfer of Feasts of Circumcision & St. Basil

9:00 a.m. Matins
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:45 a.m. Agape Meal

Monday, January 1—FEAST OF ST. BASIL

FEAST OF CIRCUMCISION

NEW YEAR'S DAY

NO SERVICES

Tuesday, January 2—St. Seraphim of Sarov

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

Wednesday, January 3

7:00 a.m. Daily Matins
12:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry at the church

Thursday, January 4

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 5

9:00 a.m. Royal Hours of Theophany
4:30 p.m. Matins of Theophany
5:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy of Theophany and
Reception of Converts

Saturday, January 6

5:30 p.m. Vespers/Confession

Sunday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Matins
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:45 a.m. Agape Meal
1:00 p.m. **OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER**
at Santa Barbara Harbor

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

December 31 Jacobs
January 7 Meyer
January 14 Hoppe
January 21 Dillon

READERS

December 30 Kern (Vespers)
December 31 Alexander
January 6 TBA
January 7 TBA
January 14 TBA
January 17
January 21

GREETERS

December 31 M. Loulias
January 7 L. Baker
January 14 K.P. King
January 21 H. Lange

USHERS

December 31 K.L. King/D. Washburn
January 7 P. King/J. King
January 14 C. Speier/S. Speier
January 21 D. Meyer/M. Loulias

AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

December 31 Team Kawahara
January 7 Team King
January 14 Team Speier
January 21 Team Wayne

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

