



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

Dan Braun, Treasurer
Asia Ballew, Secretary
Dominic Dopico
Sydney Hedges
Kristin King
Michael Loulias
Velislava Nikolov
Cheryl Washburn-Lander

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 September 8, 2024

Tone 2 / Eothinon 11

**Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross
and Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**



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**

GREAT LITANY

FIRST ANTIPHON verses for the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos with refrain:

Vs. O Lord, remember David and all his meekness. Lo, we heard of it at Ephratha;
we found it in the fields of the wood.

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

Vs. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be moved. **[Refrain]**

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

SECOND ANTIPHON verses for the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos & refrain

Vs. The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; and He will not turn from it. Of the
fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

**Refrain: O Son of God, Who rose from the dead, save us who sing to
Thee, Alleluia!**

Vs. There will I make the horn of David to bud; I have ordained a lamp
for mine anointed. **[Refrain]**

Vs. For the Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath desired it for His habitation. **[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 incar-
nate 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 the Theotokos

Vs. Here will I dwell, for I have desired it.

Refrain:

**Your nativity, O Virgin,
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,
has shone from you, O Theotokos.
By annulling the curse,
He bestowed a blessing.//
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.**

Vs. The most high hath sanctified his tabernacle. [Refrain]

Vs. Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness. [Refrain]

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

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 for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Tone 4

Your nativity, O Virgin,
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,
has shone from you, O Theotokos.
By annulling the curse,
He bestowed a blessing.//
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Kontakion for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Tone 4

By your nativity, most pure Virgin,
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,
Adam and Eve from the corruption of death.
And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to You:
“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our Life.”

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.

Preparatory Psalm verses before the Epistle (Prokeimenon) Tone 6

O Lord save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. (Ps. 28:9)

Verse: To Thee will I cry, O Lord, O my God, do not be silent unto me.

**THE EPISTLE READING
for the Sunday before the Feast of the Cross
Galatians 6:11-18**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

For, neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Preparatory Psalm Verses with Alleluia Refrain Before the Gospel Tone 1

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Vs. 1 I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (Ps 88/89:20)

Vs. 2 For My hand shall defend him, and My arm shall strengthen him.
(Ps 88/89:22)

GOSPEL READING
for the Sunday before the Feast of the Cross
John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For, God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

Meglynarion for the Nativity of the Theotokos (Hymn to the Mother of God)

Magnify, O my soul, the Virgin Mary, born of a barren womb.
Virginity is foreign to mothers; Childbearing is strange to virgins.
But in you, O birthgiver of God, both were accomplished.
Therefore, all the earthly nations unceasingly glorify You.

Communion Hymn

For the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos:

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

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
(*Ps 115/116:13*) Alleluia, Alleluia, 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 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.**

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

In addition to the celebration of the Annunciation, there are three major feasts in the Church honoring Mary, the Theotokos. The first of these is the feast of her nativity which is kept on the 8th of September.

The record of the birth of Mary is not found in the Bible. The traditional account of the event is taken from the apocryphal writings which are not part of the New Testament scriptures. The traditional teaching which is celebrated in the hymns and verses of the festal liturgy is that Joachim and Anna were a pious Jewish couple who were among the small and faithful remnant—"the poor and the needy"—who were awaiting the promised messiah. The couple was old and childless. They prayed earnestly to the Lord for a child, since among the Jews barrenness was a sign of God's disfavor. In answer to their prayers, and as the reward of their unwavering fidelity to God, the elderly couple was blessed with the child who was destined, because of her own personal goodness and holiness, to become the Mother of the Messiah-Christ.

The fact that there is no Biblical verification of the facts of Mary's birth is incidental to the meaning of the feast. Even if the actual background of the event as celebrated in the Church is questionable from an historical point of view, the divine meaning of it "for us men and for our salvation" is obvious. There had to be one born of human flesh and blood who would be spiritually capable of being the Mother of Christ, and she herself had to be born into the world of persons who were spiritually capable of being her parents.

The feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, therefore, is a glorification of Mary's birth, of Mary herself and of her righteous parents. It is a celebration as well of the very first preparation of the salvation of the world. For the "Vessel of Light," the "Book of the Word of Life," the "Door to the Orient," the "Throne of Wisdom" is being prepared on earth by God Himself in the birth of the holy girl-child Mary.

The verses of the feast are filled with titles for Mary such as those in the quotations above. They are inspired by the message of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. The specific Biblical readings of the feast give indications of this.

The Gospel reading of Matins is the one read at all feasts of the Theotokos, the famous Magnificat from Saint Luke in which Mary says: "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden, for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1.47).

The epistle reading of the Divine Liturgy is the famous passage about the coming of the Son of God in “the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of man” (Phil 2.5–11) and the gospel reading is that which is always read for feasts of the Theotokos—the woman in the crowd glorifies the Mother of Jesus, and the Lord himself responds that the same blessedness which his mother receives is for all “who hear the word of God and keep it” (Lk 11.27–28).

Thus, on the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, as on all liturgical celebrations of Christ’s Mother, we proclaim and celebrate that through God’s graciousness to mankind every Christian receives what the Theotokos receives, the “great mercy” which is given to human persons because of Christ’s birth from the Virgin.

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/nativity-of-the-theotokos>

FALL 2024 ADULT CATECHISM CLASSES

On Saturdays from 3-5 p.m.

September 28 - Session 1

“The Life in Christ by Faith: The Trinity, Apostolic Tradition, and Scripture”

October 5 - Session 2

“A Life of Repentance and Holiness”

October 19 - Session 3

“The Realm of Redemption: The Church and Its Sacraments”

November 2 - Session 4

“Seeing and Living in the Beauty, Truth and Wisdom of God”

November 9 - Session 5

“The Age to Come: The Second Coming, the Saints”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ARE BACK TO OUR SCHEDULE of doing either an Akathist or the Paraklesis on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. This Wednesday we will pray the Akathist: “Queen of All, Healer of Cancer,” which was rescheduled from last week.

SOME RECENT ARTICLES BY OUR HIERARCH, METROPOLITAN SABA:

- Your Grace Transforms the Universe, Part One <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2153>
- Your Grace Transforms the Universe, Part Two <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2159>
- Your Grace Transforms the Universe, Part Three <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2161>

THE NEXT MEN’S FELLOWSHIP FIRESIDE GATHERING will be A WEEK FROM THIS Thursday, on September 19th at the home of Adam Carralejo.

UPCOMING FEAST DAY SERVICES

THIS SATURDAY:

THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

Saturday, September 14 9am Festal Matins/10am Festal Liturgy

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Birthdays

9/8 Luke Hedges
9/11 Niko Halsell
9/14 Michael (Jimmy) Easbey, Anthony Salcedo

Patronal Saint Feast Days

9/8	Theotokos (Nativity)	Fr. John Carrillo, Laura Eberhard
9/8	St. Adriana	Adriana de Bruin
9/8	Martyr Natalia (of Nicomedia)	Natalya Kawahara
9/9	St. Anna (the Mother of the Theotokos)	Leticia Brunner, Shirley Dillon, Laurel Fryer, Michelle Madrigal, Sherie Shackelford



**IT'S NOT TOO LATE
to support the
HOWARD SHANNON GOLF TOURNAMENT!
Friday, September 13, 2024**

SPOTS FOR GOLFING ARE SOLD OUT.

The **deadline** for purchasing dinner tickets is TODAY, **September 8th.**

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN STILL HELP:

- Donations can be made all the way up to the tournament.
- Consider supporting Fr. Nicholas' Hole #10 Fundraiser or the Dn. Richard Easbey Putting Contest
- Attend the dinner and auction. (**Sept. 8 deadline.**)

Here are some of our amazing auction items:

- Hand painted Icon of Christ by Kh. Cayce Marie
- Delivered dinner for 6 by Chef Anthony Salcedo
- Italian dinner for 6 paired with wine prepared and served by Douglas Meyer and Jan Speier
- Week in Cabo San Lucas in 2 bedroom penthouse suite
- Lots of local wine, and gift certificates from local businesses

**For more details and to donate or register, go to:
<https://www.stathanasius.org/events/2024-golf-tournament/>**

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
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)
Connor V. (military)
Julianna & Zaron D. (military)
P. Speier (military)

Subdn. Matthew W. (seminary)
Steve T.
Temmo K.
Sarah B..
Dn. John & Fay Y.
Samantha & Chris N. & Family
Wade
Amanda Catherine
Penny B.
Kh. Peggy K.
Amanda, Chris & Baby James
Benny & Michelle M.
Chala Family
Kh. Janet Henderson
Stephanie Maly
Nikolov Family
Michael
Audrey D.
Eric J.
Jason T.
Michael J.
Bruce
Monica
Jake

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
Matthew, Ashley and Ryan McCauley
Brennan Pawley
Logan Strait
Ethan Salcedo

For repose of the souls of:

* **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 ti- *
* tle. Children’s books are on the bottom shelf. See Terri Speier if you are looking for jew- *
* elry 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, September 8—BIRTH OF THE THEOTOKOS

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

Monday, September 9

7:00 a.m. Daily Reader's Matins
4:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom

Tuesday, September 10

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

Wednesday, September 11

7:00 a.m. Daily Reader's Matins
12:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry at the church
5:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 12

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. Jr. High Youth Group
6:45 p.m. High School Youth Group

Friday, September 13—GOLF TOURNAMENT

7:00 a.m. Daily Matins (with a priest)
10:00 a.m. Golf Registration at Glenn Annie
11:30 a.m. Putting Contest
12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start for Golfers
5:00 p.m. Dinner & Auction

Saturday, September 14—FEAST OF THE CROSS

9:00 a.m. Festal Matins
10:00 a.m. Festal Liturgy
5:30 p.m. Great Vespers/Confessions

Sunday, September 15

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

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

September 8 Dn. Gary
September 15 Jacobs
September 22 Kern
September 29 Hoppe

READERS

September 8 Gish
September 14 Lange (Feast of the Cross)
September 15 Meyer
September 22 Kern
September 29 Alexander

GREETERS

September 8 M. Loulias
September 15 L. Baker
September 22 H. Lange
September 29 Hoppe

USHERS

September 8 S. Speier/C. Speier
September 15 D. Meyer/D. Washburn
September 22 M. Loulias/D. Alexander
September 29 K.L. King/D. Meyer

AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

September 8 Team Halsell
September 15 Team Worthington
September 22 Team Aviles/Wood
September 29 Team Wayne

