



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 Met. JOSEPH,
Archbishop of New York &
Metropolitan of all N. America**

Senior Pastor:

Fr. Nicholas Speier
805-685-5495
frnicholas@stathanasius.org

Assistant Pastor:

Fr. Symeon Halsell
805-685-5400
frsymeon@stathanasius.org

Priests attached to the parish:

Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges 805-968-1903 (Chaplain)
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. Richard Easbey (retired)
Dn. John Young (retired)

Subdeacons: Stephen Butler & Michael Easbey

Music Director/Administrator:

Valerie Yova
Office phone: 805-685-5400
email: office@stathanasius.org

Teen Program Coordinator

Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

College/Young Adult Coordinator

Mitchell Denny: mitchdennyjr@gmail.com

Parish Council 2019-2020:

Kristi King, President
Dan Braun, Treasurer
Terri Speier, Secretary
Dorothy Alexander
Laurie Baker
Corina Berari
Mary Denny
David Dillon
Zak Landrum

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM Sunday, December 20, 2020

**Tone 3 / Eothion 6;
First day of the Forefeast of &
Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
(The Genealogy)**
New-martyr John the Tailor of Thasos;
Daniel II, Archbishop of Serbia



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

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 20

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY and the GENEALOGY of CHRIST

9:00 a.m. Matins
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 21

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins
5:00 p.m. Akathist by Zoom
7:00 p.m. Men's Firepit

Tuesday, December 22

5:00 p.m. Archdiocese Christmas Concert
on Youtube
5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

Wednesday, December 23

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins
12:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Thursday, December 24

7:45 a.m. Akathist by Zoom
9:00 a.m.-Noon Showers of Blessing
9:00 a.m. Royal Hours of Nativity
8:00 p.m. **Eve of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ—
Matins & Divine Liturgy**

Friday, December 25—FEAST OF NATIVITY

Saturday, December 26

NO ADULT STUDY GROUP

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
6:45 p.m. Memorial for infants who have died
before, during or right after
childbirth, or through abortion,
in commemoration of the 14,000
Holy Innocents slain by Herod

Sunday, December 27—ST. STEPHEN

9:00 a.m. Matins
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
1:00 p.m. Blessing of the graves at
Goleta Cemetery

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

Dec. 20 D. Washburn
Dec. 27 M. Kern
Jan 3 Fr. Nicholas
Jan. 5 Tinyayeva
Jan. 10 Meyer

READERS

Dec. 19 D. Alexander (Vespers)
Dec. 20 Rdr. V. Gish
Dec. 24 Rdr. J. Butler (Nativity)
Dec. 27 M. Braun
Dec. 31 Rdr. M. Kern
(St. Basil/Circumcision)
Jan. 3 Rdr. H. Lange
Jan. 5 D. Alexander/Rdr. V. Gish
Jan. 10 Rdr. J. Butler

USHERS

Dec. 20 D. Washburn, M. Loulias
Dec. 27 P. King, J. King
Jan. 3 C. Berari, D. Meyer
Jan. 10 S. Speier, C. Speier

**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—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 be-
come 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—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.

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

Troparion of the Resurrection

one 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 for the Forefeast of the Nativity

Tone 4

Be prepared, O Bethlehem, Eden opens now to all;
O Ephratha ready make: for within the stable cave,
From the Virgin Mary pure, the tree of life has blossomed forth.
For her womb is shown to be paradise in spirit;
in which is the plant divine from which having truly fed,
we will live forevermore, and not die as Adam did.
Christ the Lord is born to raise the image that had fallen long before.

Troparion for the Sunday Before the Nativity

Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames
as though in the waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, 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 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

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
Hebrew 11:9-10, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Preparatory Psalm Verses with Alleluia Refrain Before the Gospel Tone 4
(Music on page 64 of Liturgy Booklet)

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps 43/44:1)

v: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us. (Ps 43/44:7)

GOSPEL READING
Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of

Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

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 Hymn

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. 32:1*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **THE MEN'S FIREPIT** gathering will be this Monday, Dec. 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Harris residence.
- **THE SATURDAY ORTHODOX STUDY GROUP IS ON HOLD UNTIL JANUARY.** We will announce the new schedule when we are able to resume. Thanks to all who have participated in the class for the past several months!
- **WESTMONT COLLEGE ONLINE CHRISTMAS CONCERT**
In spite of the restrictions imposed upon schools and music programs due to COVID-19, Westmont College has produced and recorded their annual Christmas concert for viewing online. **John Butler was the Audio Engineer responsible for recording and mixing, and he also operated one of the cameras. Justin Sharp and Terrell Armstrong sang in the choir.** For a stunning and joyful Lessons and Carols type of experience, watch the concert at: <https://youtu.be/0sWNI08jL3g>

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

★ **Birthdays**

- ★ 12/22 Zoe Macdonald, Alexander Nikolov, Zachary Nikolov
- ★ 12/24 Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges, Rachel Friesen, Jared Speier
- ★ 12/25 Andriy Moskalyk
- ★ 12/26 Jerry Jones

★ **Patronal Feast Days**

- ★ 12/20 **St. John of Kronstadt** Jill Wallerstedt
- ★ 12/22 **Great Martyr Anastasia** Anastasia Brunner
- ★ 12/24 **St. Nestan of Georgia** Nestan Tsiskaridze

LITURGICAL CALENDAR — LOOKING AHEAD

- Thursday, December 24—Eve of Nativity
 9:00—10:30 a.m. **Royal Hours of Nativity**
 8:00—10:15 p.m. **Nativity of our Lord—Matins & Liturgy**

- Saturday, December 26 at 6:00 p.m. **Great Vespers followed by Memorial for infants who have died before, during or right after childbirth, or through abortion**, in commemoration of the 14,000 Holy Innocents slain by Herod

- Sunday, December 27 **Blessing of the graves at Goleta Cemetery**

- Thursday, December 31 at 6:00 p.m. **Vesperal Liturgy for St. Basil and Feast of Circumcision of Christ**

- Tuesday, January 5 at 6:00 p.m. **Vesperal-Liturgy for Epiphany, Great Blessing of the Water**

- Sunday, January 10 after Liturgy **Outdoor Blessing of the Water at GOLETA BEACH**
 (We will not take the bus down to the harbor this year.)

In 2021, we will be supporting Fr. Markos through a monthly donation to the Support a Mission Priest Program.



Ghana

Fr. Markos Aidoo



Fr. Markos Aidoo was born on August 28, 1988. He was ordained to the priesthood on December 6, 2014, at St. Nicholas Church in Tema. Fr. Markos currently serves two parishes: Ss. Ambrose and Athanasius in Akororkyere, and St. Cosmas in Kwansinmua.

In 1932, a former Methodist minister, Kwamin Ntsetse Bresi-Ando, founded a new church in Ghana. Preaching freedom for the Ghanaian people during the days of colonialism, he established a church based on the "primitive faith." His vision was that this new church would be both apostolic and canonical, not a version of a foreign church. He named his church the African Universal

(Orthodox-Catholic) Church. Members called themselves "Orthodox", applying the term to mean "universal", even though they lacked contact with the Orthodox Church and had little understanding of the doctrines of the Orthodox faith.

In 1974, the World Council of Churches held a meeting in Accra, Ghana, where two of the "orthodox" youth from Bresi-Ando's church met two Orthodox Christian priests from the United States, Frs. John Meyendorff and Thomas Hopko, who were attending the meeting. This contact proved to be a major turning point and the necessary impetus towards the canonical reception of Bresi-Ando's Ghanaian church community into the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria in 1982.

In September 2007, the Orthodox Church of Ghana made another leap forward when it was appointed its own diocese. On October 6, 2009, it was elevated to the present-day Archdiocese of Accra. In addition to Ghana, this archdiocese includes Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, and Mali. In October 2019, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Patriarchate of Alexandria elected V. Rev. Petros Parginos, a priest from South Africa, as the next Metropolitan of Accra. His consecration took place December 6, 2019, at the Patriarchate in Alexandria.

The Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) program of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) offers monthly financial assistance to indigenous priests in the world's poorest areas. These funds make it possible for priests to minister and serve their growing communities.

2020 Virtual Nativity Concert

December 22, 2020 at 8 P.M. EST



Orthodox Parish Choirs throughout North America
hosted by the
Antiochian Archdiocese Department of Sacred Music

Follow Antiochian Archdiocese Department of Sacred Music channel on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTKNjZ9fgM0KCoo2-IzeAtQ>

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Metropolitan Joseph has given us a blessing to continue to do our services inside the nave. The Parish Council asks the members of the parish to adhere to the following:

- During services, please maintain at least 6 ft. of distance on all sides, including in the Communion line, and wear a mask that covers both **YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE**. (Families may sit together but should have six feet of space in front and behind them.)
- The Sunday Divine Liturgy is being broadcast in the hallway and on the patio for overflow crowd and for those who are not comfortable sitting inside the nave.
- **There will be no COFFEE HOUR for now. Please do not linger inside the building after the services unless you are buying something from the Bookstore.**

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:

Metropolitan JOSEPH
Mother Victoria
Met. Paul & Abp. John
Fr. Jacob
Mother Christophora
Fr. Jon B.
Joseph B.
Dn. Richard E.
Kh. Diane C.
Greg & Margaret Y.
Hoppe Family in Albania
Joseph Wm. B. in Kenya
Duane F.
Richard and Susan B.
Monsignor J. Yanek
Kent F.
Bob N.
Fr. Jon-Stephen H.

Cole K. (military)
Jeremiah H. (Airforce Academy)
Lauren & Fernando J. (military)
Chase K. (military)
Nick & Kristine J. (military)
Steve T,
Olga Marie G.
Dn. John Y.
Glenn F.
Mitch D. Sr.
Michael K.
David W.
Dn. Gary B.
Harvey G.
Stephen B.
Kris F.
Dn. Gary B.
David D.
Anneli C.

Kh. Erin K.
Nina
Dasha
Wendy R.
Bev R.
Phyllis M.
Christina & Anthony

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church
The Church & people in Lebanon

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:

Met. Maximos, Neyla, Kiro, Jim R., Zac B., Hilda
All who have died in the conflicts in Ukraine Africa & the Middle East
Those who lost their lives in the explosion in Lebanon

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. Nicholas' 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 Building Fund.

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Lord, Jesus Christ, at your holy birth You deemed a lowly cave to be a fit dwelling place, so in Your mercy make our souls and bodies temples worthy to contain You, the uncontainable God.

And as we make our Advent journey, open our ears to heed the prophets' warning to
"Prepare the way of the Lord!"

For we glorify you along with the angels and shepherds, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Blessings to you this Advent season!

Since our beginnings in Isla Vista, our parish has made helping our houseless neighbors a high priority. In recent years St. Athanasius Church has hosted the **Showers of Blessing**, a mobile shower truck that sets up once a week in our parking lot, providing hot showers and warm smiles for our local unhoused community members. Several St. Athanasius volunteers and I have worked closely with the Showers for several years, seeing firsthand the blessing which this project has been to those in need. **Please prayerfully consider making the Showers of Blessing one of the community organizations you support this Advent.**

May God bless you, and our dear neighbors.

Fr. Nicholas

DONATE ONLINE AT: WWW.SHOWERSOFBLESSINGIV.ORG