



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
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Teen Program Coordinator

Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

College/Young Adult Coordinator

Mitchell Denny: mitchdennyjr@gmail.com

Parish Council 2019-2020:

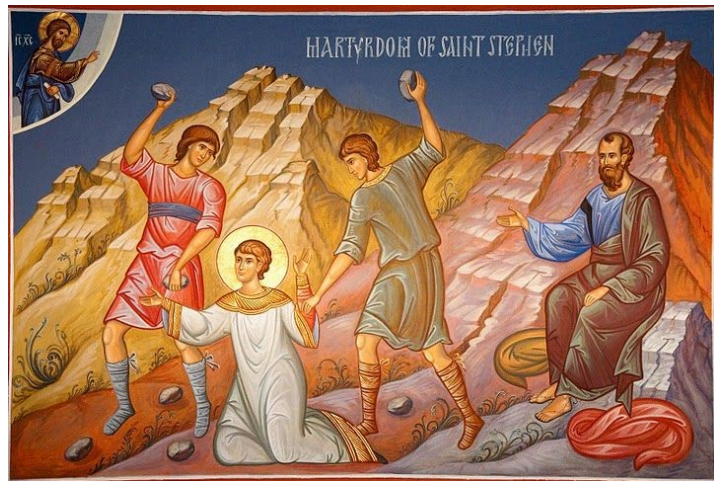
Kristi King, President
Dan Braun, Treasurer
Terri Speier, Secretary
Dorothy Alexander
Laurie Baker
Corina Berari
Mary Denny
David Dillon
Zak Landrum

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM Sunday, December 27, 2020

Tone 4 / Eothinon 7

Proto-martyr Stephen the Archdeacon & Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed,
David the Prophet and King, and James the Brother of the Lord



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 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

Monday, December 28

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins
5:00 p.m. Akathist by Zoom

Tuesday, December 29-HOLY INNOCENTS

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

Wednesday, December 30

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

Thursday, December 31

7:45 a.m. Akathist by Zoom
9:00 a.m.-Noon Showers of Blessing
6:00 p.m. Vespers-Liturgy for Feast of
St. Basil & Circumcision

Friday, January 1—HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Saturday, January 2-ST. SERAPHIM

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Sunday, January 3

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

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

Dec. 27 M. Kern
Jan 3 Fr. Nicholas
Jan. 5 Tinyayeva
Jan. 10 Meyer
Jan. 17 Dn. G. Braun

READERS

Dec. 27 M. Braun
Dec. 31 Rdr. M. Kern
(St. Basil/Circumcision)
Jan. 3 Rdr. H. Lange
Jan. 5 D. Alexander/Rdr. V. Gish
(Epiphany Vesp-Liturgy)
Jan. 10 Rdr. J. Butler
Jan. 17 D. Washburn

USHERS

Dec. 27 P. King, J. King
Jan. 3 C. Berari, D. Meyer
Jan. 10 S. Speier, C. Speier
Jan. 17 D. Washburn, M. Loulias

HOLY COMMUNION

In the Orthodox Church, the sacrament of Communion is offered only to Christians who are baptized in the name of the Trinity and chrismated into the Orthodox Faith. Non-Orthodox believers **may approach the chalice for a blessing and the blessed bread instead of the Eucharist.** So that the priest is aware of this, please just say,
“Father, bless” when you get to the chalice.

Thanksgiving Prayers after Communion

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 you show courtesy to those who are remaining to hear the prayers in their entirety by waiting until Coffee Hour to socialize.

**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 for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Ps. 111)

Verse: I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known. In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord!

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

Verse: They are sought out according to His will. Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. **[Refrain]**

Verse: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **[Refrain]**

Second Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Ps. 112)

Verse: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Verse: Glory and wealth are in his house and his righteousness endures forever. **[Refrain]**

Verse: Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous. **[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 Nativity of Christ *(Ps. 110)*

Chanter: The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.”

All:
Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone 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!

Chanter: The Lord will send Thee the scepter of power from Zion: “Rule in the midst of Thine enemies.”

People: **Thy nativity, O Christ our God...**

Chanter: With Thee is dominion on the day of Thy birth, in the radiance of holiness.

People: **Thy nativity, O Christ our God...**

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

Troparion of the Resurrection

Tone 4

Having learned the joyful message
of the Resurrection from the angel,
the women disciples of the Lord cast from them
their parental condemnation,
and proudly broke the news to the disciples
saying death has been spoiled.
Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Nativity of Christ

Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
hath given rise to the Light of knowledge in the world,
for they who did worship the stars
did learn from them to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice,
and to know that Thou didst come from the east of the Highest.
Glory to Thee O Lord!

Troparion for Sunday after Nativity of Christ

Tone 2

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
You saw a Virgin great with child;
You gave glory with the shepherds;
You worshipped with the Magi;
You received the news from the Angel.
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Troparion of the Protomartyr Stephen

Tone 4

Protomartyr and mighty warrior of Christ our God,
you were victorious in battle and crowned with glory, holy Stephen.
You confounded the council of those who persecuted you,
beholding your Savior enthroned at the Father's right hand.
Never cease praying 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 for the Nativity of Christ

Tone 8

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
The wise men journey with the star,
since for our sakes the eternal God is born as a little child!

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

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the universe! (*Ps 18/19:4*)

v: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps 18/19:1)

EPISTLE READING — For Protomartyr Stephen
Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60

In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us.” And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. The high priest said, “Is this so?” And Stephen said: “Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, ‘Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.’ Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot’s length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, ‘Heaven is My throne, and earth My footstool. What house will you build for Me’, says the Lord, ‘or what is the place of My rest? Did not My hand make all these things?’ You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, Whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they grinded their teeth against him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Alleluia Refrain and Psalm verses before the Gospel Tone 4

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Verse: Draw Thy bow and prosper and reign, in the cause of
truth, meekness, and righteousness. (*Ps 44/45:5*)

Verse: Thou hast loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
(*Ps 44/45:8*)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:13-23

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent forth and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more."

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Meglynarion for the Feast of the Nativity—Hymn to the Mother of God

O my soul, magnify her who is more hon'orable and who is more glorious than the heav'nly host. A mystery I behold which is strange and wondrous, the cave is heav'n, and the virgin is the throne of the Cherubim, in the confines of the manger is laid the infinite, Christ our god, whom we praise and magnify.

Communion of the Clergy (Liturgy Book page 32)

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

The Lord has sent redemption to His people, Alleluia!

LITURGICAL CALENDAR — LOOKING AHEAD

- 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 9:00 a.m.
6:00 p.m. **Royal Hours of Epiphany
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.)

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.**

THANK YOU...

...to all of the women of our parish who participated in the Women's Fellowship Advent Act of Mercy!

We were able to buy Amazon gift cards for 18 teens (ages 12-17) and 4 woman who have all been rescued from trafficking and are living at the Safe House or Hope Refuge. Both homes were thankful to have gifts for their residents to open on Christmas morning.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT—January-November, 2020

Goal for Tithes January-November, 2020	\$ 470,320
Actual Tithes January-November, 2020	\$ 457,499

Building Fund Goal for Jan.-November, 2020	\$ 155,320
Actual Building Fund donations Jan.-November, 2020	\$ 136,289

Monthly tithe goal = \$39,193

Tithes received per month:

January	\$30,384	May	\$33,572	September	\$32,640
February	\$85,781	June	\$26,607	October	\$33,587
March	\$39,386	July	\$47,946	November	\$44,120
April	\$33,096	August	\$50,380		

MANY THANKS...

...to Lucy Speier and friends for the beautiful Christmas goodie bags they assembled for the guests at the Showers of Blessing, hosted by our parish on Thursday mornings. They brought big smiles to lots of faces.

Many thanks to all of you who made donations to help make the project possible!



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.
David D.
Anneli C.
Kh. Erin K.

Nina
Dasha
Wendy R.
Bev R.
Phyllis M.
Christina & Anthony
Lee Family
Fr. Wayne W.

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.

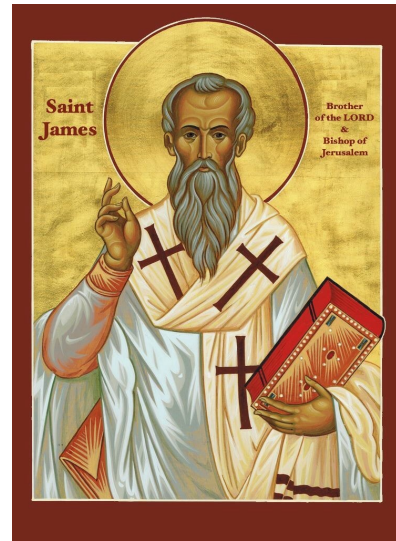
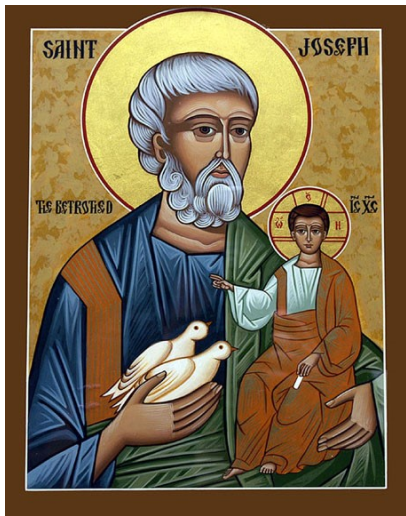
For repose of the souls of:

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.



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Nativity 2020



*“Magnify, O my soul,
her who is more honorable and exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts.
I behold a strange and wonderful mystery:
the cave a heaven, the Virgin a Cherubic throne,
and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God.
Let us therefore praise and magnify Him.”*

Nativity Ode 9, First Canon

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

We humbly offer gratitude to our Savior for every precious gift He bestows upon us as we warm ourselves by the fire of His cave. May the Nativity of our Lord and Savior bring you joy and imbue the hearts of people throughout the world with peace, reconciliation, understanding and love for one another. May you be granted a grace-filled, joyous feast and a blessed new year replete with both spiritual and physical health.

Yours in the service of Christ,

+JOSEPH
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America