

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406 stmichaelvannuys.org

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA, of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America www.antiochian.org

His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY, Auxiliary to the Metropolitan

Archpriest Timothy Baclig, Pastor frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Rev. Deacon Andrew Monsue armcopper@gmail.com

Subdeacon Richard Tamoush Tamoush.Richard@gmail.com

Subdeacon Elias Mankouche eli_mankouche@hotmail.com

Parish Council Chair - Michael Mitchell mgmitchell3@gmail.com

Council Vice-Chair - Waleed Moujaes wsmoujaes@icloud.com

Council Secretary - Fred Milkie, Jr. mildief@aol.com

Council Treasurer - Praneet Panga praneet.panga@stepupconsultingco.com

Assistant Treasurer - Kris Thabit kthabit66@hotmail.com

Long-range Planning Chair - Michael Mitchell mgmitchell3@gmail.com

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of No. America (AOCWNA)

Chapter President - Charmaine Darmour cdarmour@sbcglobal.net

Choir Director - William Grundler wrgrundler@gmail.com

Church School Dir. - Rachel Grundler superintendent@stmichaelvannuys.org

Youth Director - Alexander Moujaes alexandermoujaes@gmail.com

Young Adult Ministry Coordinator - George Khouri khourigj@gmail.com

Men's Fellowship - Nathan Afshin mensministry@stmichaelvannuys.org

Parent's Fellowship - Adrienne Hines - alevy202@gmail.com

Faithtree Resources Exec. Director - Michelle Moujaes michelle@faithtree.org

Stewardship Chair - Constantine Nasr constantinenasr@icloud.com

Bookstore Manager - Bobbi Monsue bobbi_monsue@att.net

Golf Classic Co-Chairs - Don Meena donmeena@sbcglobal.net

and Fred Milkie mildief@aol.com

Fall Multi-Cultural Festival - Rami Madain rmadain@hotmail.com

Website - Joseph Wang jpw378@gmail.com

Charity Coordinator - Cindy Tamoush cindy.tamoush@gmail.com

Usher Emeritus - Ramez Hage jeddo.ramez@gmail.com

The Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council and the 4th Sunday of Luke

Apostle Philip, one of the Seven Deacons; Venerable Theophanes the branded

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Tone 2; Eothinon 8

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Holy Fathers (Tone 8)

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion for our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: Deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the highest powers.

Kontakion for the Theotokos (Tone 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Holy Fathers)

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done.*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to Titus (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply

themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissension, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

THE GOSPEL (for the Fourth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (8:5-15)

The Lord spoke this parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold.” And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.” As Jesus said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Synaxarion

On October 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Apostle Philip, one of the Seven Deacons; the Venerable Theophanes the branded.

On this day we commemorate the holy and blessed Fathers who came together for the second time in Nicaea, during the reign of the pious and Christ-loving Sovereigns Constantine and Irene, against those who impiously, ignorantly and foolishly asserted that the Church of God worshippeth idols, and rejected the august and holy icons.

Verses

Thy champions, O Word, with words as their weapons,
Turn to flight the foes of the venerable icons.

The Council met in 787 to refute the Iconoclast heresy, whose camp believed that all depictions of Christ, His Mother and the saints should be destroyed. The iconophiles believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; and they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty. The council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype, or the person depicted. It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because "no man has seen God at any time" (John 1:18). By the intercessions of the Holy Fathers, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

A Note Regarding Holy Communion

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, *only* those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent Confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered by Haitham & Asma Sweis with prayers for the repose of their departed loved ones: Hanna & Fuda, Michael & Najla, Toufic, Hani, Hanieh, Hind and Huda. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered by Adeeb & Nuha Abughazaleh for their grandchildren born in October: Jessica, Samantha, Ameera and Abigail Abughazaleh and Leila Salamy. May God grant them many years!

Holy Bread is also being offered by Beverly Kushida Ansara in honor and loving memory of her beloved father, Tatsuo Kushida (+12 October, 1998), her beloved mother, May Kushida (+18 October, 2015), and her beloved sister, Pamela Kushida (+7 October, 2023). May their souls rest in peace. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered by Mimi & Nichola Hallak in memory of Mimi's brother, Fouad (+5 October, 2012). Memory eternal. Prayers are also offered for a blessed birthday of their daughter Amanda (October 11). May God grant her many years!

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

for the repose of Pauline Henderson (+6 October, 2026),
the great aunt of Joyce Britton. Memory eternal.

by Mary Butros for the healing of her professor, Young Kee.

for the well being of Eugene Fenton, the father of Father John Fenton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Council Nominations

On Sunday, November 15, 2026 we will be holding a brief Special Meeting of the Voting Membership solely for the purpose of receiving and accepting nominations for Parish Council members to be elected for there (3), three-year terms (January, 2027 to December, 2029). At this meeting the Nominations Committee will present their report and additional nominations will be open from the floor. The Vice Chair, Waleed Moujaes is the Chair of the Nominations Committee. All who are interested and are prepared to be committed in serving on our Parish Council for a three-year term (2027-2029) should be in-touch with Waleed at: wsmoujaes@icloud.com or Father Timothy Baclig, Pastor at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

It is important that persons being considered be able to fulfill the commitment to serve. Therefore it is necessary that all nominees first be personally asked if they would accept nomination, and second be approved by the Pastor as someone who is qualified. The Parish Constitution prescribes that all nominees must be at least twenty-five years of age or older, have been a pledging members of the parish for at least

one year and have fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Faith [Article VI, Sec. 2]. The nominees must also be committed in attending monthly Parish Council meetings held on the third (3rd) Sunday of each month. If necessary, the Parish Council election will be held on two (2) consecutive Sundays: November 22 and 29.

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesday, October 13

Our next Bible Study will be held on Tuesday evening, October 13, at 7 p.m. Our study is currently on Matthew 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount). Sessions are recorded for those unable to attend who may also request the link to the study.

Metropolitan SABA's Weekly Teaching

(in English, Arabic, French and Spanish)



View the weekly teaching from Metropolitan SABA here, titled: "The Mind of the Saints;" <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2960>

**Today following Holy Communion Church
School classes will meet.**

**Here is the Church School registration link for
convenience: [https://docs.google.com/
forms/d/e/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPUakWnXJX2JGCFo4ftytlKL0geTSTAc8LG1tfgN9YtQUg7w/viewform?usp=header)**

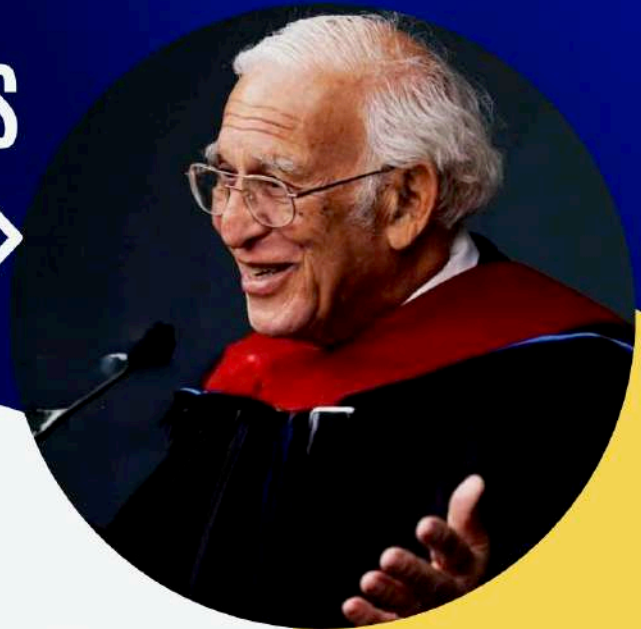
**[1FAIpQLSfPUakWnXJX2JGCFo4ftytlKL0geTSTAc8LG1tfgN9YtQ
Ug7w/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPUakWnXJX2JGCFo4ftytlKL0geTSTAc8LG1tfgN9YtQUg7w/viewform?usp=header)**

Important Video That Summarizes "AI In Our Lives"

The video (from a workshop at this year's Parish Life Conference) probes the question: What kind of people is Artificial Intelligence making us? The workshop was led by Fr. Peter Samore, the Archdiocese Director of Communications, and Deacon Maxim Najim, who spent more than 20 years building software systems in the tech industry. The discussion explains how AI works technologically and thinks for itself, and how it impacts our daily lives and our very being. Here is the link: <https://www.antiochian.org/videonews/2941>

DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES & THE WEST
ANTIOCHIAN MEN
VISION & LAY LEADERSHIP

**WITH CHARLES
AJALAT >>>>>**



**AT THE 2026
FALL GATHERING**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
10:00AM - 1:00PM**

ST. MICHAEL, WHITTIER
3333 WORKMAN MILL RD.

**FOR INFORMATION
& REGISTRATION
CLICK OR SCAN HERE**



St Michael Antiochian Women
is partnering up with our
Church School
for

SOCK-TUBER

Warm Feet. Warm Hearts.

ALL OCTOBER LONG

We are collecting
NEW SOCKS
of all ages!

**MUST BE NEW AND
IN UNOPENED PACKAGES**



Small
Donation.
Big
Impact.

*Together
we can
make a
difference!*

Suggested Socks:

- ♥ Men
- ♥ Women
- ♥ Children
- ♥ Babies
- ♥ Crew
- ♥ Ankle
- ♥ Athletic
- ♥ Diabetic
- ♥ All sizes and styles

Every pair makes a difference!



Your donation will help
provide, warmth, comfort,
and dignity to our
HOMELESS NEIGHBORS
and **FAMILIES IN NEED.**



**DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS
THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF**

OCTOBER!

*Thank you for helping us
spread warmth and hope.*



Together, we can make a big difference—

One Pair at a Time.

Upcoming Events (see the foyer bulletin board for more information)

[Note: You may now access our Google Parish Calendar to your personal calendar.

Simply go to: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmcj>

Diocesan Fall Gathering - Friday-Sunday, October 23-25, 2026
Hosted by St. Michael Church (Whittier, California); Register at:
<https://stmichaelwhittier.org/fall-gathering-2026-registration/>

St. Nicholas Cathedral Festival - Saturday, Sunday, October 17-18, 2026
Saturday, 3-11 p.m., Sunday, 12 noon to 10 p.m.

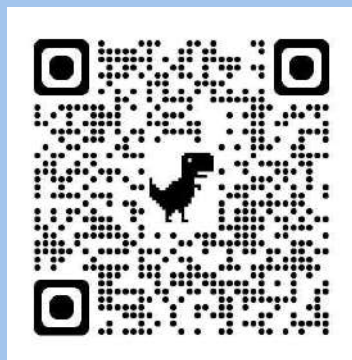
St. Michael Feast Day and Multi-Cultural Festival - Sunday, November 8
[Note: Divine Liturgy will begin at 9 a.m., Orthros at 7:30 a.m.]

Church School Christmas Program - New Date: Sunday, December 20

Men's Service Project: LA Food Bank, Saturday, December 19,
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up here: <https://cerv.is/0338gLaV5AP>



VOLUNTEER HERE!



Scan the QR Code above or
[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up!

Here is a link for easy access to volunteer: <https://bit.ly/4wZ7mat>



The poster features a background image of the St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church at sunset. In the top left, there is a circular icon of an angel. The main title 'ST. MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH' is in blue serif font, followed by '1ST ANNUAL' in white on a red oval, and 'MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL' in large, bold, blue serif font. Below the title, the date and time 'NOVEMBER 8th, 2026 | 11:30 A.M.-9:00 PM' and the location '16643 VANOWEN ST, VAN NUYS, CA 91406' are listed. A blue banner with white text reads 'LIVE PERFORMANCES FEATURING'. Below this are five performer portraits: Simo Samir (singing), Ricardo Hallak (with a 'MAN OF THE YEAR' award), Maurice Raad (smiling), Fouad Yazji (in a blue shirt), and the EXA BAND (a group photo). Below the portraits are two larger images: 'American & Latin Music' (a group of musicians) and 'Wisam Haddad & Band' (a man playing a keyboard). A blue banner with white text reads 'ALSO WITH'. Below this are four images: 'FOOD' (a grill with meat), 'CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT' (a colorful inflatable castle), 'DANCE PERFORMANCES' (a group of dancers in white), and 'VENDORS AND MORE!' (a tent at an outdoor event). At the bottom, two white boxes contain admission fees and raffle information. The footer includes contact information for the festival coordinator and a decorative border with palm trees and church icons.

**ST. MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**1ST ANNUAL
MULTICULTURAL
FESTIVAL**

NOVEMBER 8th, 2026 | 11:30 A.M.-9:00 PM | 16643 VANOWEN ST, VAN NUYS, CA 91406

LIVE PERFORMANCES FEATURING

Simo Samir
Ricardo Hallak
Maurice Raad
Fouad Yazji

LIVE MUSIC
EXA BAND
American & Latin Music
Wisam Haddad & Band

ALSO WITH

FOOD
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT
DANCE PERFORMANCES
VENDORS AND MORE!

ADMISSION FEES:
ADULTS- \$5
KIDS UNDER 10- FREE

RAFFLE DRAWING
ON NOVEMBER 8th, 2026 AT 9PM
\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE
PLUS OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FESTIVAL COORDINATOR:
RAMI MADAIN | (818)-383-9557 OR RMADAIN@HOTMAIL.COM

St. Nicholas
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Festival



SAT. OCT 17, 2026 2PM - 12AM
SUN. OCT 18, 2026 1PM - 10PM

2300 W. 3RD STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90057

**\$5
ENTRANCE
FEE**

LIVE SINGERS & DJ

**CHURCH
TOURS**

SILENT AUCTION

FOOD • BEER & WINE • KIDS ACTIVITIES • PRIZES & MORE



**MC
SALWA
HARIRI**



**RITA
FARA**



**GIOVANNI
KHOURY**



**FIDEL
RAYAD**



**FAISAL
HADDAD**



**MAURICE
RAAD**



**MICHEL
ACHKAR**



**DJ
NEDAL**

VENDORS AND RENTAL INQUIRIES, AD BOOK, DONATIONS, PLEASE DONOR AT 2140 SALEM AT 214-286-2715 SPONSORIAL IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY

You Sure You Have Father Timothy's Correct E-mail Address?

NOTE: Father Timothy's e-mail address is: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org
Please do not use his former address and update his contact information on your computer. His phone number has not changed: 818-219-3761. He prefers that you do not text him by telephone for bulletin postings or announcements. Sunday Bulletin announcements are properly received by e-mail, however, prayer requests may be made by text, e-mail or voice call.

Do You Have the Convenient St. Michael Parish App?

The St. Michael Parish App will provide you with a “one stop” reference to:
a) the Sunday Bulletin, b) The Church Calendar, d) Parish Events, e) The Weekly Bible Study Link and Recordings, f) Monthly Financial Reports, g) Live-stream of Services, h) Past Live-streams, i) Past Sermons, j) Direct Link to Donations, k) Church Groups Contacts, l) Information on Days of Fasting, m) a Direct Link to the Church Website. Use this link to install the App on your phone: <https://tithe.ly/app.link/st-michael-orthodox-church>
Should you need assistance, contact Joey Wang at: jpw378@gmail.com

Contributions In Support of Our Seminary Scholarships

In response to Metropolitan SABA's letter, your support of our seminaries may be made throughout the month of October on-line, <https://www.stmichaelvannuys.org/donate>, or by providing a check earmarked: “Seminary Scholarship (#402230).” Thank you for your support with this tri-annual appeal.

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

Oct 18 - open
Oct 25 - The Nasser family
Ron & Kathy Zraick
Nov 01 - open
Nov 08 (Feast of St. Michael)
Nov 15 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

The Nasser Family

Multi-cultural Festival

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread;
David Rodriguez at: (818-484-6157; droadpena@gmail.com) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.

PASTORAL SERMON
The Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclic
October 11, 2026

This month we are helping our young people to understand what it means to be a good disciple of the Lord. Being a member of God's Kingdom and "being a disciple" is **living our lives as a plant rooted in the "good soil."** **Plants in good soil produce good fruit.** Spiritually this means that being a good disciple is living our lives well grounded in the church where we are able to grow in faith and love by knowing Christ who is "the Gardener."

Our homes and the community of the Church are like a garden. Our homes and our life in the church ("our family of families") is the most important context for our children to know God, to experience a relationship with him and to grow in faith. This does not happen without parents sharing in the responsibility and growing in the faith experience with their children.

The month of October in our Archdiocese is dedicated to the youth in our church for a reason. Our young people grow up with many trials and challenges in an environment with many challenges that have much to do with finding and being accepted; being liked and noticed; having trusting friends. Whether our children are in public or private school, their experiences are the same even though their context may be different. It is a very good thing to shelter a child from needless distractions, however, life is not lived in a bubble.

It does not take long for a young person to discover that the world is a very large place and consists of all kinds of people; some who do not necessarily think, talk or even behave like you and I. One's youth is also a time of adventurous exploration, testing, and discovery. And for this reason, building the relationships with trusted persons within one's family and the community of the church is very important to the spiritual health of our children. In every generation it has never been enough to say that something is wrong. Leaning the importance of making good choices over bad ones can be made by a parent, however, the choices eventually become our children's.

A priest who was once assigned to a parish decided to gather his parishioners at the start of his pastorate to ask: "What do you think my job is?" One man stood up and said, "Father, I think your job is to help us know what all of this means" (as he pointed to the icons and the altar of the church). Then a lady at the rear of the church raised her

hand and said, “Father, more than teaching us ‘what all of this means,’ I think that you need to show us that all of this has meaning.”

This task is not only the “job” of the priest. It is the call of every parent of the church: Helping our children to believe that “all of this,” in fact, all that we do, does have meaning; a very personal meaning.

As parents we want safeguards for our children; protecting them from bad influences; harmful things and needless anxiety. How do we do this? Are there ways to ensure or guarantee their future, who they form relationships with, trust or confide in?

Our church is committed to providing an environment that not only teaches our children facts but demonstrates the Christian life. This means that all of us have a part to play in educating our children. This also means: whether we even care to be involved in the lives of our children or not—we all have an influence in the lives of our young people for better or worse as members of the church. They also are very keenly aware of knowing if you care.

Demonstrating the Christian life is a shared experience. It is practiced. A practice that we all participate in. Whether it be coming to church, sharing our offerings, doing things for others, even caring for our church property; it involves a lot of repetition and personal sacrifice. In fact, life is filled with doing things over and over again; sometimes because we do not get it right the first time. However, getting things right can become easier when you know you have someone there beside you; not only to help you in knowing how to do something, but being there for encouragement and support, especially when you don’t feel like you can do it again; or even get up and try doing things over. It helps to also know that you will not be harshly judged or looked down upon for not being perfect.

However a healthy trusting relationship is a relationship where one is able to not only tell you what you want to hear, but what you need to hear; perhaps what you don’t want to hear. This is precisely what is meant by Christian discipleship. It is mentoring. Discipleship, however, is not a cloning process or joining a cult. Discipleship does not stifle creativity, dialogue or discussion. However, discipleship is governed by norms, rules, boundaries. Discipleship is also recognizing that we are all disciples of the One who is the Lord *our* God!

While we might place a great deal of importance in acquiring knowledge, the Christian life is not solely based upon knowing things. While knowing and remembering facts have their purpose, being a Christian and living the Christian life is strengthened by the inspiration of good models, strong leadership, positive images and living examples. Each of us can have a part in the lives of our children as parents, godparents,

grandparents, uncles, aunts, and friends if we take seriously what God expects of us and consistently do our best to live up to our calling as Christian parents, godparents, uncles, aunts and friends. We all have a responsibility as members of God's vineyard; His garden. More attention is rightly given and afforded to those of us who have been doing it for a long time. However, even with the contribution of elders, there must be room for open-mindedness and a sense of shared learning. No one ever arrives in being Orthodox or living the Orthodox Christian life, just as no one masters being able to love, or to forgive, or to be patient, or even to repent. These are lifetime practices only in different stages. Being a good mentor or helper to a brother or sister is done with great humility and honest reflection; being willing to share of what was learned through one's successes and failures.

We hear the Holy Apostle James saying in verse 16 of chapter 5: "...confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed." This verse is at the end of the section of the first Epistle reading for the Sacrament of Holy Unction (Anointing of the Sick) and follows the Apostles instruction for the sick to: "call for the elders of the church" for prayer. We should take note that while the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) is a very private matter, we are nonetheless called to also "confess to each other."

To the Galatians (6:2), St. Paul says, "Bear one another's burdens and fulfill the law of Christ." These two verses illustrate that the ministry of healing extends beyond the clergy and involves the participation of the laity. Those who are strong in the faith are expected to help with those who are weak; however the Apostle also cautions that the strong must be careful and wise, in order that they too will not fall into being tempted (Galatians 6:1).

God's Kingdom does not only consist of like-minded adults, or people of the same background. God's garden is a very big garden; a garden that consists of very many plants; all kinds of plants created by God's own design. In today's Gospel lesson God is the Gardener who sows seeds generously and without hesitation. This illustrates to us that His words have been distributed freely to all who have "ears to hear." However, as the lesson describes, the circumstances and environment of the seeds determine their survival. The survival of our families has a lot to do with our life in the church and the bonds and ties that we have with one other as members of the Body of Christ.

First and foremost, you and I must choose the Lord as our Gardener. This means that you and I cannot be completely in-charge of determining everything about what we want or would like to see happen in the lives of our loved ones, or even our own - for that matter. The Lord is our Gardener. "He is the Vine, we are His branches!" (...and without

Him we can do nothing!) With that choice must come our willingness to be cared for in ways that we don't always understand, in a world that presents us with many trials and challenges. Good and healthy plants cannot grow without proper pruning and occasional treatment.

Our role as parents, teachers, Godparents and clergy is to clearly understand our call in nurturing our children and living in a healthy, responsible and loving environment; an environment that teaches not only by words but by actions; deeds, good works; by example; with humility and kind generosity.

Prayer

O Christ our God, we thank you for your love and acceptance of us as we are. Help us as we commit ourselves to doing your will. Strengthen us in our time of weakness and keep us safe from all evil, for blessed is Thy Name and glorified is Thy Kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. A-men.

EOTHINON 8

الاوثينا 8

tone 2

اللعن 2

SUNDAY OF HOLY FATHERS OF SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL AND THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

APOSTLE PHILIP, ONE OF THE SEVEN DEACONS; VENERABLE THEOPHANES THE BRANDED

أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللعن الثاني

عندما انحدرت إلى الموت، أيها الحياة الذي لا يموت، حينئذ أمت الجحيم ببرق لاهوتك. وعندما أقمت الأموات من تحت الثرى، صرخ نحوك جميع القوات السماويين: أيها المسيح الإله، مُعطي الحياة المجد لك.

أبوليتيكيون لأحد الآباء باللعن الثامن

أنت أيها المسيح إلهنا الفائق التسبيح، يا مَنْ أسست آباءنا القديسين على الأرض كواكب لامة، وبهم هديتنا جميعاً إلى الإيمان الحقيقي، يا جزيل الرحمة، المجد لك.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللعن الرابع

أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسل إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتى أنكم بطلبكم تكتفوننا بظل أجنحة مجدكم غير الهولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجاثين والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوات العلوية.

قنداق السيدة على اللحن الثاني

يا شفيعا المسيحيين غير المخذولة، المتوسطة لدى الخالق غير المردودة، لا تعرضي عن أصوات طلباتنا نحن الخطاة، بل تداركينا بالمعونة بما أنك صالحة نحن الصارخين إليك بإيمان: بادري إلى الشفاعة وأسرعني في الطلبة، يا والدة الإله المتشفعة دائما في مكرميك

الرسالة

(لأحد الآباء القديسين)

مُبَارَكُ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا.

لأنَّكَ عدلٌ في كلِّ ما صنَّعتَ بنا.

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى تيطس. (15-3:8)

يا ولدي تيطس، صابِرةٌ هي الكلمة وإياها أريدُ أنْ تُقرَّرَ حتَّى يَهْتَمَّ الذين آمنوا بالله في القيام بالأعمالِ الحسنة، فهذه هي الأعمالُ الحسنة والنافعة. أمَّا المباحثاتُ الهذيانِيَّةُ والأنسابُ والخصوماتُ والمآحكاتُ الناموسِيَّةُ فاجتنبها، فإنها غيرُ نافعةٍ وباطلة. ورجُلُ البدعة بعدَ الإنذارِ مرَّةً وأخرى أعرض عنه. عالِمًا أن من هو كذلك قد اعتسَفَ، وهو في الخطِيئةِ يقضي بنفسِه على نفسه. ومَتَى أُرْسِلْتُ إِلَيْكَ أَرْتِمَاسٌ أَوْ تِيخِيكُسٌ، فبادِرْ أنْ تَأْتِيَنِي إلى نيكوبولس لأنِّي قد عَزَمْتُ أنْ أَشْتِيَ هُنَاكَ. أمَّا زيناسٌ مُعَلِّمُ الناموسِ وأبلوسٌ، فاجتهدْ أنْ تُشَبِّعَهُمَا مُتَاهِيْنِ لئلاَّ يُعَوِّزَهُمَا شَيْءٌ. وَلِيَتَعَلَّمْ ذَوُنَا أَنْ يَقُومُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ لِلحَاجَاتِ الضَّرُورِيَّةِ حتَّى لا يَكُونُوا غَيْرِ مُثْمِرِينَ. يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ مَعِيَ، سَلِّمُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَا فِي الْإِيمَانِ، النِّعْمَةُ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ. آمِينَ.

الإنجيل

(لأحد الرابع من لوقا)

فصلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ

الطاهر. (15-8:5)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: حَرَاجَ الزَّارِعِ لِيَزْرَعَ زَرْعُهُ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَزْرَعُ، سَقَطَ بَعْضُ عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ، فَوُطِئَ وَأَكَلَتْهُ طُيُورُ السَّمَاءِ. وَبَعْضُ سَقَطَ عَلَى الصَّخْرِ، فَلَمَّا نَبَتَ يَبَسَ لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ تَكُنْ لَهُ رُطُوبَةٌ. وَبَعْضُ سَقَطَ بَيْنَ الشُّوكِ، فَنَبَتَ الشُّوكُ مَعَهُ فَخَنَّقَهُ. وَبَعْضُ سَقَطَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الصَّالِحَةِ، فَلَمَّا نَبَتَ أَثْمَرَ مِائَةَ ضِعْفٍ. فَسَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ مَا عَسَى أَنْ

يَكُونُ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ. فَقَالَ: لَكُمْ قَدْ أُعْطِيَ أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَسْرَارَ مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ، وَأَمَّا الْبَاقُونَ
فَيَأْمَنُ، لَكِي لَا يَنْظُرُوا وَهُمْ نَاطِرُونَ، وَلَا يَفْهَمُوا وَهُمْ سَامِعُونَ. وَهَذَا هُوَ الْمَثَلُ:
الزَّرْعُ هُوَ كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ، ثُمَّ يَأْتِي إبْلِيسُ وَيَنْزِعُ
الْكَلِمَةَ مِنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ لِئَلَّا يُؤْمِنُوا فَيَخْلُصُوا. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى الصَّخَرِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ
الْكَلِمَةَ وَيَقْبَلُونَهَا بِفَرَحٍ، وَلَكِنْ لَيْسَ لَهُمْ أَصْلٌ، وَإِنَّمَا يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَى حِينٍ، وَفِي وَقْتِ
التَّجَرِبَةِ يَرْتَدُّونَ. وَالَّذِي سَقَطَ فِي الشُّوكِ، هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ ثُمَّ يَذْهَبُونَ فَيُخْتَنِقُونَ
بِهُمُومِ هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةِ وَغِنَاهَا وَمَلَذَّاتِهَا، فَلَا يَأْتُونَ بِثَمَرٍ. وَأَمَّا الَّذِي سَقَطَ فِي الْأَرْضِ
الْجَيِّدَةِ، فَهُمْ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ فَيَحْفَظُونَهَا فِي قَلْبٍ جَيِّدٍ صَالِحٍ، وَيُثْمِرُونَ
بِالصَّبْرِ. وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا نَادَى: مَنْ لَهُ أُذُنَانِ لِلسَّمْعِ فَلْيَسْمَعْ.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الأرثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذي يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً في الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية