

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

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The Forefeast of and The Sunday before The Holy Theophany of Christ

Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles; Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily

Sunday, January 04, 2026

Tone 5; Eothinon 8

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal 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.

Apolytikion of the Forefeast of Holy Theophany (Tone 4)

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

Apolytikion of 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 of Holy Theophany of Christ (Tone 4)

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

THE GOSPEL (Sunday before the Holy Theophany of Christ)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Mark (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Synaxarion

On January 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we prepare to celebrate the Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we celebrate the Synaxis of the holy Seventy Apostles.

Verses

It is right to acclaim with songs all together
all of the Seventy glorious Apostles.
On the fourth we glorify men of mighty renown.

In addition to the twelve Great Apostles, the Lord chose seventy other, lesser apostles and sent them to preach to the Jews. He sent them out two by two before His face, to each town and place, saying: "Behold, I send you as sheep among wolves" (Luke 10:1-5). But as Judas, one of the Twelve, fell away from the Lord, so some among these Seventy withdrew from Him,

not with the intention of betraying Him but from human weakness and lack of faith (John 6:66). The apostles elected new ones to take the fallen apostles' places. These Seventy labored in the same way as the twelve Great Apostles; they were the assistants of the Twelve in the spreading and strengthening of the Church of God in the world. They suffered much torture and malice, from men and from demons, but their firm faith and burning love for the risen Lord made them conquerors of the world and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

[There is **no** fasting from December 25th to January 4th (inclusive)]

THE GREAT FEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY)

Monday, January 5th The Eve of Theophany (*Paramon*)

The Royal Hours of Holy Theophany (live-streamed)

[Observed as a day of strict fasting (dry eating)]

The First Hour, 6 a.m.; The Third Hour, 9 a.m.;

The Sixth Hour, noon; The Ninth Hour, 3 p.m.

The Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, January 6th — Festal Orthros, 8:30 a.m., immediately followed by

The Great Blessing of the Waters and

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* 10 a.m.

*Services with Holy Communion**

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread for the Feast of St. Basil the Great (January 1st) was offered by Mae Tortolano with prayers for her goddaughter, Dr. Cindy Alberts-Carson; the Skaff, Namay, Ortega, Jurado and Tortolano families and our St. Michael Church family.

Holy Bread is also being offered today by Marcia O'Dea in memory of her grandparents: Habib & Latife Chala. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread was offered by Laila Dawud with prayers for her family and in memory of her departed loved ones. Memory eternal.

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

by Deacon Andrew & Bobbi Monsue for the repose of the newly-departed
Minta Wolfe (+20 December, 2025), beloved mother of
Khouriye Kimberly Taweel. Memory eternal.

for the expectant parents: Paige & Michael Danova

Included in our prayers throughout the month of January are those celebrating their birthday: Issa Aldaya (01/01), Eid Esshak Sayegh and Esshak Eid Sayegh (1/1), Steven Hage (1/4), Matthew Mittry (1/5), Sophia Sweis (1/5), Vanessa Coury (1/5), Darryl Thomas (1/6), Silva Aftimos (1/8), Mark Hannah (1/8), Hala Nehme (1/8), Nizar Shahwan (1/8), Peter Joseph Turk (1/8), Nancy Sawalha (1/9), Christian Ablahad (1/10), Marilee Ajalat (1/12), Yvonne Farr (1/12), Britton McLinn (1/12), Daniel Kneizeh (1/12), Robert Abraham (1/13), Diana Thabit (1/13), Michael Baclig (1/14), Marcel A. Haddad (1/14), Ghada Mansur (1/15), Violet Kavan (1/15), Abigail Elizabeth Abraham (1/15), Kevin Homsy (1/16), Joe Kence (1/16), Christopher Dodds (1/17), Kelly Meena (1/17), Brandon Terry (1/17), Mary Ann Coury (1/18), Justin Henry (1/18), Michael Aldaya (1/20), Jeanice Gantus (1/20), Tonya Anne Grates (1/20), John Sweis (1/20), Albert Coury, Jr. (1/21), Christopher Matarese (1/21), Chad Manning (1/22), Sophia Rose Rygiol (1/22), Jeanette Tarbouche (1/22), Leslie Thabet (1/22), Christine Tarbouche (1/23), Riad Aftimos (1/24), Basma Madain (1/24), Shereen Manning (1/24), Alek Milkie (1/24), Wedad Boutros (1/26), Anastasia Panga (1/27), Breann Larson (1/27), Dejan Bozic (1/28), Tere Shimizu (1/28), Rita Makhoul (1/30), Rami Yanni (1/30), Vanessa Murr (1/31); and those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Nicole & Robert Webster (1/1), Cathy & Joe Durrett (1/3), Adeeb & Nuha AbuGhazaleh (1/11), Walid & Isabel Kneizeh (1/17), and Cynthia & Nicholas Bibby (1/21);. May God grant them all many years!

Included in our prayers for the departed in the month of January are:

Anna Saadeh +15 Jan. 1963
Issac Zraick, +3 Jan. 1965

Nazira Abdelhak +9 Jan. 2002
Albert Thomas +17 Jan. 2005

<i>Sleyman M. Namay, +11 Jan. 1966</i>	<i>Bill Shedd +17 Jan. 2007</i>
<i>Alice Gadallah +Jan. 1972</i>	<i>Elinor Bourjaily +4 Jan. 2008</i>
<i>Dorothy Fadel +6 Jan. 1973</i>	<i>Dr. John Abdun-Nur +31 Jan. 2008</i>
<i>Malakeh Saliba +14 Jan. 1975</i>	<i>Assad Dawud +25, Jan. 2010</i>
<i>Fouad K. Mittry +20 Jan. 1975</i>	<i>Lorna Shedd +27, Jan. 2010</i>
<i>Frieda George +17 Jan. 1976</i>	<i>Assad Najjar +31 Jan. 2010</i>
<i>Marianne D. Halaby +27 Jan. 1997</i>	<i>George Coury +3 Jan. 2011</i>
<i>John Mansur +16 Jan. 1981</i>	<i>Steven Peck +15 Jan. 2011</i>
<i>John G. Khouri +27 Jan. 1981</i>	<i>Archpriest Antonios +23 Jan. 2011</i>
<i>Alphonse Bonjianne +9 Jan. 1982</i>	<i>Usguhi Sarchizian +9 Jan. 2012</i>
<i>Aziz Baskhyroun +Jan. 1985</i>	<i>Robert Peck +19 Jan. 2012</i>
<i>George Sadd +13 Jan. 1985</i>	<i>Linda Simon +10 Jan. 2013</i>
<i>Sandra Pettit +17 Jan. 1985</i>	<i>Elia Qushair +12 Jan. 2013</i>
<i>Michael D. Fayard +16 Jan. 1988</i>	<i>David James Satel +12 Jan. 2013</i>
<i>Mamdouh Boutros +12 Jan 1989</i>	<i>Olga Judes Massou +2 Jan. 2015</i>
<i>Emile Boutari +30 Jan. 1990</i>	<i>Norman Mamey +22 Jan. 2015</i>
<i>Shirley Jacobs +11 Jan. 1990</i>	<i>Vladimir Petrov +27 Jan. 2015</i>
<i>Marie Aboud +Jan. 1990</i>	<i>Nelly M. Zacky +15 Jan. 2016</i>
<i>Lila Bastron +25 Jan. 1991</i>	<i>Huda Elshaer +20 Jan. 2016</i>
<i>Margaret Gantus +1 Jan. 1992</i>	<i>Louis Slemon +17 Jan. 2016</i>
<i>Joseph Abrahms +21 Jan. 1992</i>	<i>Arti Devadas +25 Jan. 2016</i>
<i>Toofic Simon +12 Jan. 1996</i>	<i>Areij Rabadi +19 Jan. 2017</i>
<i>Lucille T. Maddox +1 Jan. 1997</i>	<i>Moses "Ricky" Namay +29 Jan. 2018</i>
<i>Eva Meena +8 Jan. 1997</i>	<i>Gregory Habib +18 Jan., 2019</i>
<i>Edward Deeb, Sr. +11 Jan. 1997</i>	<i>Nancy Farha +23 Jan., 2019</i>
<i>Haifa Ellis +29 Jan. 1997</i>	<i>Jeff Gazale +4 Jan., 2020</i>
<i>Michael T. Haddad +1 Jan. 1998</i>	<i>Hanna Harb +3 Jan., 2020</i>
<i>Phyllis Mittry +16 Jan. 1998</i>	<i>Dr. S. Jim Farha +17 Jan., 2020</i>
<i>Madeline Bediali +9 Jan. 1999</i>	<i>Roger Hunt +28 Jan., 2020</i>
<i>Saman Simon +23 Jan. 1999</i>	<i>Donald Simon, +4 Jan., 2021</i>
<i>Eva Nichols +28 Jan. 1999</i>	<i>Jeff Matarese +14 Jan., 2021</i>
<i>Helen Kirshy +18 Jan. 2000</i>	<i>Isabel Elac +8 Jan., 2024</i>
<i>Samir Aftimos +24 Jan. 2001</i>	<i>Alice Andrews +12 Jan., 2024</i>
<i>Shaker Nicholas Ayoub +Jan. 2002</i>	<i>Ron David +18 Jan., 2024</i>
<i>Aida Boutari +5 Jan. 2002</i>	<i>Jeannette Berberi +20 Jan., 2024</i>
	<i>Ioan Mihalache +3 Jan., 2025</i>

Memory Eternal!

**Please phone the Church Office if there are any omissions or corrections to the above listing of names.
Please bear in mind that some have chosen not to be included in our announcement.
Please pardon any errors.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Metropolitan SABA's Weekly Teaching (in English and Arabic)

View the weekly teaching from Metropolitan SABA here, titled: "On Religious Cinema;" go to: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2694>

Informative Archdiocese Links

The Associated Press published "[Converts are finding Eastern Orthodoxy online. The church wants to help them commune face-to-face.](#)" Fr. Thomas Zain is one of several Orthodox Christian priests and laity who all said that the in-person experience of the Church transcends ideologies of this world and so-called Internet Orthodoxy. Feel free to share this article with your congregations.

Registration is now open for two important opportunities for your church musicians: the spring semester of the [Antiochian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Online Music School](#) with classes starting on Jan. 12; and the [Winter Sacred Music Institute](#) in Phoenix, Arizona from Feb. 5-8. Thanks be to God, music education in our Archdiocese is year-round. Please encourage your choirs, chanters and their directors to sign up.

Please find attached the 2026 Fasting Calendar which is also available at the [Online Liturgical Guide](#) (scroll down to "Seasonal Liturgical Resources." Feel free to share the calendar with your congregations.

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Report Booklet

The Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026. In the best interest of time, a Confidential Report will be prepared for distribution prior to the Annual Meeting. Single page reports are now due from all Council officers, Standing Committees and Subsidiary Organizations in order to be compile on time for distribution to the Voting Membership.



ST. MICHAEL CHURCH SCHOOL 2025 - 2026

REGISTER NOW!

RESUMES

JAN 11TH

CURRICULUM

EXODUS

CLASSES

Pre-K - Kindergarten
1st - 3rd Grade
4th - 6th Grade
7th - 12th Grade



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT RACHEL GRUNDLER
SUPERINTENDENT@STMICHAELVANNUYS.ORG

Frequently Asked Questions When Completing a Pledge Form

What is the reason for completing an annual parish Pledge Form?

Each year planning for budgeted receipts and expenditures are an important part of being responsible stewards of Christ's church. Some of our month-to-month expenses include: priest and staff salaries, utility and maintenance expenses, the payment of property taxes (yes, churches do pay property taxes), and insurance. It is not uncommon for these expenses increase each year. It is a goal of our Parish Council to meet these expenses with the contributions of our members. The Pastor does not receive stipends (monetary gifts) for house blessings, baptisms, weddings and funerals if a family is not enrolled with the parish and completed an annual pledge form. The Pastor's living expenses and allowances are included the Annual Budget of the parish.

What is the St. Michael annual "Archdiocese Parish Contribution"

Each parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese pays 10% of its parish income to assist with the expenses of our bishops, Archdiocesan and Diocesan departments and programs. Over one-fourth of the Archdiocese budget is dedicated to youth programs. We project that our annual payment to the Archdiocese from St. Michael Church to be \$36,000, or 10% of our income (excluding contributions received for the charity collections, special Archdiocese collections, and memorial gifts).

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Receiving 2026 Pledge Commitments Totaling \$80,319.84 From the Following Members:

Adeeb & Nuha Abughazaleh

Laila Abughazaleh

Frances Allen

Kevin Anthoney

Fr. Timothy Baclig

Kristy & Mike Chiaburu

Salim El-Darzi and Marwan

Samia Habib

Michael & Patricia Malouf

Don Meena

Fred & Tanya Milkie

Mary Ann & Michael Mitchell

Michelle & Waleed Moujaes

Dn. Andrew & Barbara Monsue

Charlotte Murr

Riad Nasser

Mandy & Constantine Nasr, Jr.

Barbara & Fred Nicola

Chrisa Sadd

Richard & Cindy Tamoush

Ronald & Georgia Tamoush

Daphne Thabet

Geri Thabit

Nicole & Robert Webster

Laila Zaki

Ron & Kathy Zraick

2026 Pledge Forms are now available on-line and hard copies may be found in the narthex.

Please Be Sure That All Contributions For 2026 Are Received For Deposit by Sunday, January 4, 2026. Any check that is dated for the 2025 calendar year following January 4th will NOT be included in your 2025 Year-End Contribution Statement. Also, all electronic contributions will be based upon the date of the contribution.

Our Weekly Bible Study Will Resume Following Holy Theophany

Our weekly Virtual Bible Study will resume on Tuesday evening, January 13th, at 7 p.m. Recorded sessions of previous sessions are available.

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Jan 11 - open

Jan 18 - open

Jan 25 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Please contact Father Timothy (818/219-3761; frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread or to host the Coffee Hour.

Upcoming Events

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

Simply go to: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWNoYWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmc>]

Parish Council Dinner Meeting - Today

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Mid-Winter Choir Institute — February 5-8, 2026

See flier with this bulletin (below)

Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Clergy Seminar - February 5-12, 2026

Sacred Heart Retreat Center (Alhambra)

Parish Family Super Bowl Party - February, 2026

[Note: The gathering is a potluck]



Acknowledgement

Happy New Year to all! 2026 brings another year of help and hope to all our clients that we serve daily. Because of your continued assistance and prayers over many years, our mission becomes a reality. As we start this new year our focus will be on the homeless individuals that visit us. Each one will be given a backpack filled with items you have supplied. Socks, toiletries, underwear, solar blankets etc. They leave with a smile on their face and a thanks to all responsible for this gift. Our families are treated

with many bags of food, diapers, wipes etc. and a gift card to markets given by you. And so our work continues because of you, our partners, giving us the incentive to carry on. We look forward to the challenges awaiting us. We know you will always be there for us! Warmest Regards, Love and Happiness to you all! Barbara Ausburn (Loaves and Fishes). A total of \$970 was received from our parishioners and 428 pounds of food.

Congratulations!

We congratulate the winners of this years' Teen SOYO Holiday Raffle: First Prize: **Minnie Lush**; Second and Third Prize: **Fred Nicola**. We thank everyone for their support of our Youth Program. \$931 was received from our donors.

Establishing a Prayer Discipline

Have you ever found praying to be difficult? Do you feel too busy to pray? Or perhaps you don't know where to begin? Maybe you have found it hard to focus, or even experienced emptiness when you pray. If so, you're not alone. For many Orthodox Christians, prayer can be misunderstood, or even frustrating. But prayer is how we build an intimate relationship with the living God! The reality is that cultivating that relationship takes time and effort. Our parish is partnering with Faithtree Resources in *The Encounter*, a prayer initiative that will help us grow closer to God, closer to each other, and to grow in our faith.

Made up of daily Orthodox prayers that you can utilize on a free app, or through a physical prayer book, *The Encounter* is a simple and easy way to begin to grow in your prayer life and do so with others in our community.

If you'd like more information about participating, sign up on the google doc here: tinyurl.com/encounterfaithtree

Church School Recess

Church School classes will resume on January 11, 2026, when we celebrate the Post Feast of Holy Theophany.

THE FOREFEAST OF THE SUNDAY BEFORE
THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

SYNAXIS OF THE SEVENTY HOLY APOSTLES; VENERABLE THEOKTISTOS OF SICILY

أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللحن الخامس
لِنُسَبِّحْ نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَنَسْجُدُ لِلْكَلِمَةِ، الْمَسَاوِي لِأَدَبِ وَالرُّوحِ فِي الْأَزَلِيَّةِ وَعَدَمِ
الْأَبْتِدَاءِ، الْمَوْلُودِ مِنَ الْعَذْرَاءِ لِخَلَاصِنَا، لِأَنَّهُ سَرَّ بِالْجَسَدِ أَنْ يَغْلُو عَلَى
الصَّلِيبِ، وَيَحْتَمِلَ الْمَوْتَ، وَيُنْهَضَ الْمَوْتَى بِقِيَامَتِهِ الْمَجِيدَةِ.

أبوليتيكية تَقْدِمَةُ عيد الظهور الإلهي
إِسْتَعْدِي يَا زَبُولُونَ، وَتَهَيَّأِي يَا نَفْتَالِيمَ. وَأَنْتِ يَا نَهْرَ الْأُرْدُنِّ، قَفْ مُمْسِكًا عَنْ
جَرِيكِ، وَاقْبَلِ السَّيِّدَ بِفَرْحٍ، آتِيَا لِيَعْتَمِدَ. إِطْرَبِي يَا آدَمُ وَابْتَهِّجِي مَعَ الْأُمِّ الْأُولَى
وَلَا تَخْفِيَا ذَاتَكُمَا، كَمَا اخْتَفَيْتُمَا فِي الْفِرْدَوْسِ قَدِيمًا، لِأَنَّهُ لَمَّا رَأَى كَمَا عُرَاةً، ظَهَرَ
لِكِي يُلْبِسَكُمَا الْحُلَّةَ الْأُولَى. الْمَسِيحُ ظَهَرَ مُرِيدًا أَنْ يُجَدِّدَ الْخَلِيقَةَ كُلَّهَا

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع
أَيُّهَا الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرِ الْمُسْتَحَقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَنْكُمْ
بَطْلَابَتِكُمْ تَكْتَنُفُونَنَا بِظِلِّ أَجْنَحَةٍ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الْهَيُولَى، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِينَ
وَالصَّارِحِينَ بِغَيْرِ فُتُورٍ، أَنْقَذُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ، بِمَا أَنْكُمْ رُؤَسَاءُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

قُنْدَاقُ تَقْدِمَةِ الظهور الإلهي باللحن الرابع
الْيَوْمَ حَضَرَ الرَّبُّ فِي مَجَارِي الْأُرْدُنِّ، هَاتِفًا نَحْوَ يُوْحَنَّا قَائِلًا: لَا تَجَزَعْ مِنْ
تَعْمِيدِي، لِأَنِّي أَتَيْتُ لِأَخْلَصَ آدَمَ الْمَجْبُولَ أَوَّلًا

الرسالة

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاثَكَ.
إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُحُ إِلَهِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى تِيموثَاوَس. (8-5:4)

يَا وَلَدِي تِيموثَاوَس، تَيَقَّظْ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَاحْتَمِلِ الْمَشَقَّاتِ، وَاعْمَلْ عَمَلَ الْمُبَشِّرِ، وَأَوْفِ خِدْمَتَكَ. أَمَّا أَنَا فَقَدْ أُرِيقُ السَّكِبَ عَلَيْ وَوَقْتُ انْحِلَالِي قَدْ اقْتَرَبَ. وَقَدْ جَاهَدْتُ الْجِهَادَ الْحَسَنَ، وَأَتَمَمْتُ شَوْطِي، وَحَفِظْتُ الْإِيمَانَ. وَإِنَّمَا يَبْقَى مَحْفُوظًا لِي إِكْلِيلُ الْعَدْلِ الَّذِي يَجْزِينِي بِهِ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ الرَّبِّ، الدِّيَانُ الْعَادِلُ، لَا إِلَيَّي فَقَطْ، بَلْ جَمِيعَ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ ظَهْرَهُ أَيْضًا.

الإنجيل

لِلأحد الذي قبل الظهور الإلهي

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ مَرْقُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.
(8-1:1)

بَدْءُ إِنْجِيلِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ ابْنِ اللَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ فِي الْأَنْبِيَاءِ: "هَاءَنْذَا مُرْسِلُ مَلَائِكِي أَمَامَ وَجْهِكَ يَهَيِّئُ طَرِيقَكَ قُدَّامَكَ. صَوْتُ صَارِخٍ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ: أَعِدُّوا طَرِيقَ الرَّبِّ وَاجْعَلُوا سُبُلَهُ قَوِيْمَةً." كَانَ يُوْحَنَّا يُعَمِّدُ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ وَيَكْرِزُ بِمَعْمُودِيَّةِ التَّوْبَةِ لِغُفْرَانِ الْخَطَايَا. وَكَانَ يَخْرُجُ إِلَيْهِ جَمِيعُ أَهْلِ بَلَدِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ وَأُورُشَلِيمَ فَيَعْتَمِدُونَ جَمِيعُهُمْ مِنْهُ فِي نَهْرِ الْأَرْدَنِ، مُعْتَرِفِينَ بِخَطَايَاهُمْ. وَكَانَ يُوْحَنَّا يَلْبَسُ وَبَرَ الْإِبِلِ وَعَلَى حَقْوِيهِ مِنْطَقَةٌ مِنْ جِلْدٍ، وَيَأْكُلُ جَرَادًا وَعَسَلًا بَرِّيًّا. وَكَانَ يَكْرِزُ قَائِلًا: إِنَّهُ يَأْتِي بَعْدِي مَنْ هُوَ أَقْوَى مِنِّي، وَأَنَا لَا أَسْتَحِقُّ أَنْ أُنْحَنِيَ وَأَحُلَّ سَيْرَ حِذَائِهِ. أَنَا عَمَدْتُكُمْ بِالْمَاءِ، وَأَمَّا هُوَ فَيَعْمِدُكُمْ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ.