

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

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Archdiocese of North America www.antiochian.org

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The Great and Glorious Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (Holy Pascha)

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Paschal Apolytikion (Tone 5)

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Hapakoe of Pascha (Tone 4)

They who were with Mary came before the dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them: Why seek ye Him as man with the dead, Who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for He is the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8)

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointmentbearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for Pascha)

*This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.*

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which,

He said, "You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

THE GOSPEL (for Pascha)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. John
(1:1-17)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Next Sunday is **Thomas Sunday**

Saturday, April 18th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 19th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Epitaphios (*E-pee-TAH-fee-os*), which has been placed on the altar – representing the Tomb of Christ, will remain on the altar until the Feast of the Ascension (Thursday, May 21st). At that time, the image of Christ will be returned to the Cross. The image of the entombed Christ, however is a permanent part of the altar as the “tablecloth” (Antimension; *Anti-MEN-see-on*), resting under the Gospel Book. It is opened for the “anaphora” (time of the offering in the Liturgy), or the second part of the Divine Liturgy when the bread and wine are placed on the altar for consecration. It is a cloth signed by the Metropolitan Archbishop and is the church’s credentials as a canonical Orthodox Church of Apostolic succession.

A WORD WE NEED TO KNOW: PASCHA (*PAAS-kah*)

Easter is the focal point of the church calendar when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The word *Pascha* is the Aramaic derivation of the Hebrew word: *Pesach*, which means Passover. Jesus and most of the early Christians spoke Aramaic, and as the faith spread, the word was retained. We understand Christ to be our *passage* (or Passover) from death to life, our Pascha!

Leaves on the floor?

At the morning service of Holy Saturday, the triumphant announcement of Christ’s victory over death is heard with the fanfare, “Arise, O God, and judge the earth...” followed by the Great Prokeimenon: “Who is so great a god as our God! Thou art the God who doest wonders!” Bay leaves are scattered throughout the church during a procession with verses sung that speak of all of creation being renewed. The throwing of the leaves throughout the church is a sign of the entrance of the King (as was done in the early Roman world when the King returned from a victorious battle). The colors of the church are changed from dark to light, and the doors of the altar in tonight’s service remain open as a sign of the empty tomb. They will remain open throughout all of the next week, called: “Bright Week,” and closed at sundown on “Bright Saturday,” the eve of Thomas Sunday.

“Renewal Week”

The week following Easter in the Orthodox Church is a full celebration of Christ’s Resurrection. The entire week is known as “Bright Week” or “Renewal Week” because the entire creation is renewed in Christ. During the coming week and for the next forty days there is no fasting at all. From the period of Easter to the Feast of the Ascension (Thursday May 21st), Orthodox Christians greet each other with “Christ is Risen!” and the response: “Truly, He is risen!” During this period we also do not kneel in private or congregational prayer. Traditionally, a Divine Liturgy is held with a Paschal procession every day during Bright Week. The unique character of the season is heard in all services: funerals, baptisms, weddings, etc.

HOLY WEEK and PASCHAL OFFERINGS

Holy Bread was offered on Palm Sunday by the Hallak, Azzam, Abughazaleh Ababseh, and Karam families. Christ is risen!

Holy Bread was offered on Palm Sunday by George, Milad, Basima Sayegh with prayers for the Sayegh and Almarji families and in memory of: Issa, Salina, Eada, Esshak, Nissrin and Talina. Christ is risen!

Festal Palms and flowers for the Paschal icon were offered by Rami & Basma Madain, Hannah and Michael with prayers for their good continued health and prosperity. Christ is risen!

Roses for the tomb of Christ were offered by the Madain family, the Deeb, Najjar and Kouri families in loving memory of their departed loved ones: Edward & Marion Deeb, Caren Deeb Kouri, Rose & Eli Deeb, Sam & Amelia Nader, Carl & Alice Andrews, John Davis, George Deeb, Georgette Deeb Hapip & Gene Hapip; Carrie Deeb Skaff & Emile Skaff, Libby Deeb Jacob and Derek Jacob; Assaad & Gladys Najjar, Roula Najjar, Jeannette & Louis Aboud, Lou Aboud, Jr.; Velma Anthony, Sharon Rowihab, Jimmy & Odette George, Paul Kouri, Joe Farrage, Elaine Srour, Bobbi Kouri and Chris Nassif. May they rest in peace. Memory Eternal.

Holy Bread and Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday were offered by Marcia O'Dea, the O'Dea and Chala family, with prayers for God's blessings for Robin O'Dea, Brian O'Dea and Kiera O'Dea, celebrating their birthdays; also in memory of our beloved parents, Abdulla & Melvina Chala. Memory eternal.

Oil for the for the Sacrament of Holy Unction was offered for the continued health of the Haitham Sweis family.

Holy Bread for Holy Pascha is offered by the Ibrahim family with prayers for their continued health and the repose of their departed family members. Christ is risen!

Special offerings and requests for prayer were offered by...

Antoine Nader and family in memory of Aref Kaiser and Nuha Nader; Joseph & Labibe Habak.

for the continued health of Ron & Kathy Zraick, Ron Jr., Thomas & Julia Zraick, Jill, Martin, Henry and Colin Phipps, Tom & Jennie Zraick; Kim, John, Jenna, Sophie and Gavin Scott; and in loving memory of Lucas Scott, Edna & Issac Zraick, Thomas & Camille Adeeb, Diana Haddad, Lorraine Ghiz, Louise Martin, Richard Zraick, Renee Kabbez, and Angelina Diab.

Eggs for the Feast of Holy Pascha were offered with prayers for the families of: George, Basma and Milad Sayegh; Sean & Robin O’Dea and family; Presbytera Nicole and Mary in loving memory of Father Minas Sarchizian. Christ is risen!

Special Prayer Requests are made...

for the healing and continued recovery of Chrisa Sadd

for the healing and continued health of Joe Durrett

for the newly Baptized and Confirmed, Nathan & Ashley Afshin
and Naomi; their sponsors Sami & Amy Azzam.

for the newborn child, Charley Fares who was churched
on Holy Saturday

for the newly Baptized and Confirmed Daniel Escalon and his sponsor,
Lawrence Hughes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Agape” / “Baouth” Vespers – Sunday, April 12th, 11 a.m.

[The Annual “Search for the Empty Egg” will take place following the Service]

The Blessing of Easter Baskets

Father Timothy will be blessing personal Easter baskets and Easter eggs following the service, followed by our potluck Paschal Breakfast. We ask that everyone be responsible for their own leftovers and not leave them at the church. We also sincerely thank the contributions that have been received for our Food for the Hungry People collection this year. Christ is risen!

APRIL
12

Easter
EGG HUNT



***St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
Church School Presents: Annual Easter Egg Hunt***
Following the Agape Vespers at 11 a.m.

We are very excited to announce this year's Easter Egg Hunt! Please RSVP with the number of children that will be attending the "Search for the Empty Egg" by e-mailing Kristy Hanson at: Kristy.hanson16@gmail.com.

Please e-mail your response by April 5th.

Children will line up - youngest to oldest to allow time for the little ones to find the eggs. We also need volunteers to hand out baskets and help hide eggs.

Email Kristy to volunteer!

Thanks to All!

We sincerely thank everyone who assisted with all that was needed to be done in preparing the church for our worship services throughout Great Lent and Holy Week. We especially thank Subdeacon Richard Tamoush, Readers: Michael Paraskevas, William Michael Nehme, our Choir Director, the Reader William Athanasius Grundler; Lead Arabic Chanter: Maher Daoud, our altar servers, readers, chanters and singers (English and Arabic); our Church School Director, Rachel Grundler and teachers; Youth and Young Adult Directors; the Antiochian Women, men, parents hosting our Easter Egg Hunt, and our ushers. [Father Timothy]



Message From Metropolitan SABA (in English and Arabic)

View the Paschal greeting from Metropolitan SABA here, available in four languages: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2780>

Also, "An Introduction to Holy Week" is a concise summary of our services: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/328>

Food for the Hungry People Drive

You may have received the Food for the Hungry People mailing from Robin Nicholas. Your contribution may be made through our parish by writing your check to "St. Michael Church", earmarked: "FFHP" and our parish collection will be sent in at the end of Great Lent. If you have a coin box, you may mail a check for the total amount to the parish or should you turn in your box be sure to put your name on the box. Thank you for your support of our annual Lenten charity campaign.

Zoom Meeting Virtual Bible Studies Will Resume in April

Our Weekly Bible Study will resume after Pascha. The link for the last recorded links and Study Guides on Great Lent and Holy Week are available by request by contacting Father Timothy at: ftimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
of the San Fernando Valley
16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

April 12, 2026

Beloved in Christ,

With great joy we proclaim that Christ is risen! *المسيح قام! Χριστος ανέστη!*
Χριστος Воскресе! Cristo ha resucitado! Hristos a înviat! Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!
Truly, He is risen!

In the words of Saint John Chrysostom: "...the Savior's Death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it, has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive... It took a Body and it met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen..."

Celebrating comes with whole hearted preparation. The more the preparation, the greater the celebration. Our time together during Great Lent as parish community has again been glorious thanks to everyone's help and contribution to our services.

As Christ's agents of hope and reconciliation in the world, let us take seriously the Paschal message of forgiveness that we may be examples of overcoming all forms of division, hatred, and enmity. The Resurrection of Christ reveals to the world that darkness, hatred and death does not have the final say. God's love is triumphant and provides healing from sin and human weaknesses.

I trust that this has been a meaningful season of illumination for you and your family. May the joy of the Paschal Feast fill your life with all that God truly desires for us: those imperishable gifts that are truly not of this world.

Christ is risen!

Father Timothy Baclig
Pastor

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

عيد الفصح العظيم المقدس

ابوليتيون الفصح باللحن الخامس

المسيح قام من بين الأموات، ووطئ الموت بالموت، ووهب الحياة للذين في القبور.

الإيباكوي باللحن الرابع

سَمِعْتَ الصَّيْحَ اللواتي كُنَّ مع مريم، فوجَدْنَ الحجرَ مَهْجُورًا عن القبر. وَسَمِعْنَ الملاكَ قائلًا لهُنَّ: لِمَ تَطْلُبْنَ مع الموتي كائِسانَ مَوْنٍ في النورِ الأزلِيِّ؟ أَنْظُرْنَ لِعائِفِ الأَكفانِ، واسْرَعْنَ واكْرُرْنَ في العالمِ بآبِ الرَّبِّ قد قامَ وأماتَ المَوْتِ، بما أَنَّهُ ابْنُ اللهِ المَخْلُصِ جِئْسَ البَشَرِ.

القنداق لخدمة الفصح باللحن الثامن

ولئن كنت نزلت إلى قبر يا من لا يموت، إلا أنك ذرست قوة الجحيم، وفمت غالباً أيها المسيح الإله، ولتنسوة حاملات الطيب قلت "افرحن!", ولزسلك وهيت السلام، يا مانح الواقعين القيام.

الرسالة

هذا هو اليوم الذي صنعه الرب، فلنفرح ونبتهّل به.

إغترفوا للرب، فإنه صالح وإلى الأبد رحمته.

فصل من أعمال الرسل القديسين الأطهار

أَكْلامَ الأَوَّلِ أَنشأَهُ يا ثاو فيلسن، عن جميع ما ابتدأ يسوع يفعله ويُعلّم به، إلى اليوم الذي ارتفع فيه، بعد ما أوصى بالروح القدس الرسل الذين اختارهم. الذين أراهم أيضًا نفسه حيًا بزيهين كثيرين، بعد ما تألم، وهو يظهر لهم أربعين يومًا، ويتكلم عن الأمور المخصصة بملكوت الله. وفيما هو مجتمع معهم أوصاهم أن لا يترخوا من اورشليم، بل ينتظروا «مؤعد الأب الذي سمعتموه مبني، لأن يوحنا عمد بالماء، وأما أنتم فستتعمدون بالروح القدس، ليس بعد هذه الأيام بكثير». أما هم المجمعون فسألوه قائلين: «يا رب، هل في هذا الوقت ترد الملك إلى إسرائيل؟» فقال لهم: «ليس لكم أن تعرفوا الأزمنة والأوقات التي جعلها الأب في سلطانه، لكنكم ستثابرون قوة متى حل الروح القدس عليكم، وتكونون لي شهودًا في اورشليم وفي كل اليهودية والسامرة وإلى أقصى الأرض.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس يوحنا الإنجيلي التبشير

في البدء كان الكلمة، والكلمة كان عند الله، وإلها كان الكلمة. هذا كان في البدء عند الله. كل به كان، وبغيره لم يكن شيء مما كون. به كانت الحياة، والحياة كانت نور الناس. والنور في الظلمة يضيء، والظلمة لم تدركه. كان إنسان مرسل من الله اسمه يوحنا. هذا جاء للشهادة ليشهد للنور، لكي يؤمن الكل بواسطته. لم يكن هو النور بل كان ليشهد للنور. كان النور الحقيقي الذي يضيء كل إنسان أتيا إلى العالم. في العالم كان، والعالم به كون، والعالم لم يعرفه. إلى خاصته أتى، وخاصته لم تقبله. أما كل الذين قبلوه، فأعطاهم سلطانا أن يكونوا أولاداً لله، الذين يؤمنون باسمه، الذين لا من دم، ولا من مشيئة لحم، ولا من مشيئة رجل، لكن من الله ولدوا. والكلمة صار جسدا وحل فينا، وقد أبصرنا مجده، مجد وحيد من الأب مملوءاً نعمة وحقاً. ويوحنا شهد له، وصرخ قائلاً: "هذا هو الذي قلت عنه إن الذي يأتي بعدي صار قبلي لأنه متقدمي". ومن مله نحن كلنا أخذنا، ونعمة فوق نعمة. لأن الناموس بموسى أعطي، وأما النعمة والحق فبیسوع المسيح حصلنا.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عومية المشاركة فيه لنوي العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقترن 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 انتهاء مراسم القداس.

الرجاء مراجعة الكاهن إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً في الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
Honoring
ALL THE LADIES OF ST. MICHAEL

NO CHARGE
GOOD-WILL OFFERINGS ACCEPTED

SUNDAY, MAY 10TH FOLLOWING LITURGY

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE ARCHDIOCESE
WIDOWED CLERGY WIVES ENDOWMENT FUND

SPONSORED BY THE
MEN'S MINISTRY OF ST. MICHAEL

RSVP TO: mensministry@stmichaelsannuys.org for a reservation
Suggested Good-Will offering \$10/pp

ST. MICHAEL GOLF CLASSIC

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026

WOOD RANCH GOLF CLUB

10:00 Check-in & Lite Bruch

12:00 Golf

5:00 Cocktail

6:00 Dinner



Dinner with Fr. Timothy
Will take place in Summer 2026

(Date TBD)

Contact:

Marcelle (818) 516-1736

DeAnne (818) 389-0065

Register Here for all events →

<https://app.tickettailor.com/events/stmichaelantiochianchurch/2085844>



33rd Annual St. Michael Golf Classic

Mark your calendar for The 33rd Annual St. Michael Golf Classic: Monday June 29th 2026 at Wood Ranch Golf Club, Simi Valley, CA. Join your St. Michael family for a day of fellowship and fun. For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Don Meena (661-623-0340, donmeena@sbcglobal.net) or Fred Milkie (818-535-4243, milkief@aol.com).

The following dialogue is said between the priest and the faithful at the end of the Liturgy:

Priest: Christ is risen!

People: Truly, He is risen! [repeated in various languages]

Al Maseeah qam! **Haq qan qam!** (*Arabic*)

Christos Anesti! **Alithos Anesti!** (*Greek*)

Kristos voskrese! **Voistinu voskrese!** (*Slavonic*)

Kristo esta resusitado! **Verdaderamente resusitado!** (*Spanish*)

Khristi ungal! **Vertet ungal!** (*Albanian*)

Le Christ est ressuscite! **En verite il est ressuscite** (*French*)

Kristos Inviat! **Adervaret inviat!** (*Romanian*)

Ua ala hou 'o Kristo! **Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!** (*Hawaiian*)

Christus is opgestaan! **Hij is waarlijk opgestaan!** (*Dutch*)

Kristus ist Auferstanden! **Sicherlich ist Auferstanden!** (*German*)

Khristus Zmartvikstau! **Zaiste Zmartvikstau!** (*Polish*)

Christos harjav i merelotz! **Orhniale harutjun Christosi!** (*Armenian*)

Kristos Tensiah! **Be-a-man Ten-si-a!** (*Tigrigna*)

Massih Miyayat! **Hatman Miyayat** (*Farsi*)

Kristo azukidde! **Kituufu azukidde** (*Luganda*)

Ha Mashiyach qam! **Ken hoo qam!** (*Hebrew*)

Yesu Christo Wierthayairnaytoo! **Sathamyetoom Yesu Christo wierthayairnaytoo!**
(*Malayalam*)

Mesiah jee utha hei! **Such mei jee mutha hei!** (*Indian*)

Kristo samawa, yomi gaimashta! **Hontoni yomi gaimashta!** (*Japanese*)

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by Death, and upon those in the tombs... **People: Bestowing life!**



Please join His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, His Grace Bishop ANTHONY, the Clergy and Faithful in celebrating 75 years of faith, family, and fellowship!

Saint Nicholas Cathedral's 75th Diamond Jubilee Weekend

Saturday
April 25

Saint Nicholas
Cathedral

Vespers
3:30pm

Saturday
April 25

Universal Hilton
\$150 per person

Gala
Cocktail: 5:30pm
Gala 7:00pm

Sunday
April 26

Saint Nicholas
Cathedral
\$40 Adults - \$20 Children

Hierarchical
Divine Liturgy
Followed by
Champagne Brunch

75 Years and Continuing to Carry God's People Across Troubled Waters to the Safe Harbor in Christ!

Reservations open until April 17th for both events!

Visit www.stnicholasla.com/75th for the full weekend agenda and events.

For Gala tickets contact Georgette Maalouf 818-391-6217

For sponsorship please contact Dan Andrews 661-331-0723 or John Nahas 818-438-9707. You may also email StNic75th@gmail.com.

