

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

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The Fifteenth Sunday of Luke (Zaccheus Sunday) **Athanasius and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria**

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Tone 8; Eothinon 11

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 8)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of St. Gregory the Theologian (Tone 3)

The shepherd's pipe of thy theology conquered the trumpets of the philosophers; for since thou didst search out the depths of the Spirit, beauty of speech was added to thee. But intercede with Christ God, O Father Gregory, that our souls be saved.

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 the Presentation of Christ (Tone 1)

Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, and didst bless Simeon's hands as was meet, by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved, O only Friend of man.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for St. Gregory the Theologian)

*My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart
shall be of understanding. Hear this, all ye people.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (7:26—8:2)

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily,

first for his own sins and then for those of the people; He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son Who has been made perfect forever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a High Priest, one Who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord. For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer.

THE GOSPEL (The Fifteenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

The Synaxarion

On January 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Father among the Saints Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople.

Verses

To acknowledge God's essence in Orthodox manner:
Such is this Gregory's legacy unto Christians.
On the twenty-fifth Gregory of divine speech died.

He was born in Nazianzus and studied in Athens with Basil the Great and Julian the Apostate. Gregory correctly prophesied that Julian would become an apostate and a persecutor of the Church. When he completed his studies, Gregory was baptized. Basil consecrated him as bishop of Sasima, and Emperor Theodosius the Great summoned him to fill the vacant archiepiscopal throne of Constantinople. Gregory wrote numerous works, of which his most famous are those concerning theology. Especially known because of its depth is his work *Homilies on the Holy Trinity*. Gregory wrote against the heretic Macedonius who erroneously taught that the Holy Spirit is a creation of God, and against Appolinarius who erroneously taught that Christ did not have a human soul but that His divinity was in lieu of His soul. Gregory died in 390 at age 80.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Demetrios the Sacristan; and New-martyr Auxentios of Constantinople. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican and the Forefeast of the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ

Saturday, January 31 — Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 1 — Orthros, 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered and the coffee hour hosted by Khouriye Hind Bchara and family for the fifteen-year memorial of the Archpriest Ibrahim Bchara (+26 January, 2011). Memory eternal.

We welcome back Adrienne & Regan Hines, Layla, Martha, and the newborn child, Henry Edward Hines, born on December 13, 2025. May God grant them all many years!

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

by Nathan Afshin, Layla and Naomi for the birthday of Ashley Afshin.
May God grant her many years!

by Anne Marie Botezatu for the safe travel of her children, Julia
Theodora, Marc Anthony and his family.

by Nazli Saadeh and Leili Soltaniazad for the continued health of
Jean Pierre Saadeh

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

View the weekly teaching from Metropolitan SABA here, titled: "Divine Education: The Old Testament;" go to: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2712>

Informative Archdiocese Links

View the January-February Issue of The Word magazine (the official publication of the Antiochian Archdiocese). Go to: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2699> and read how to cast of distraction which is "the beginning of all evil" according to St. Ignatius Brianchaniov, finding strength in humble places; also the inspiring life of St. Nikiforos the Leper.

Annual Parish Meeting — Today, Following Liturgy

The Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership will convene today immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please be sure to sign-in to help us to verify a quorum of our voting membership.

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 \$99,619.84 From the Following Members:

Adeeb & Nuha Abughazaleh

Laila Abughazaleh

Rami Abughazaleh

Frances Allen

Kevin Anthoney

Sami & Omaima Azzam

Fr. Timothy Baclic

Kristy & Mike Chiaburu

Deanna & Rami Jubran

Nichola & Mimi Hallak

Ramez & Rima Hage

Tom & Lynn Homsy

Salim El-Darzi and Marwan

Samia Habib

Michael & Patricia Malouf

Don Meena

Fred & Tanya Milkie, Jr.

Mary Ann & Michael Mitchell

Michelle & Waleed Moujaes

Dn. Andrew & Barbara Monsue

Charlotte Murr

Antoine & Georgina Nader

Riad Nasser

Mandy & Constantine Nasr, Jr.

Barbara & Fred Nicola

Chrisa Sadd

Haitham & Asma Sweis

Richard & Cindy Tamoush

Ronald & Georgia Tamoush

Randa Tarbouche

Daphne Thabet

Geri Thabit

Mae and Cristina Tortolano

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.

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=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmcj>

Teen Group Ice Skating - Saturday, January 24

12:45 to 3:45 p.m.

Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Young Adult 2026 Kick-off Social - Friday, January 30th

Location TBD

Piano Concerto No. 3 — February 1, 2026, 1 p.m.

St. Luke Church (see information with this bulletin)

Feast of the Presentation of Christ — February 2, 2026

Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Lion's Den - Four Week Group Study for Men

February, 2, 9, 16, 23 [see flier with this bulletin]

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

See flier with this bulletin (below)

Clergy Seminar - February 5-12, 2026

Sacred Heart Retreat Center (Alhambra)

Parish Family Super Bowl Party - February 8, 2026

[Note: The gathering is a potluck]

**Young Adults - FOCUS Food and Clothing Distribution
February 28, 2026, 9 a.m.**

[St. Nicholas Cathedral; 2300 W. 3rd Street; Los Angeles]

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Feb 01 - Margaret Abdun-Nur

Feb 08 - open

Feb 15 - Jeanette Hollow

Feb 22 - open

Feb 25 (Pre-sanctified Liturgy)

Mar 01 - open

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Jeanette Hollow

Cheese Fare Coffee Hour

Light Lenten Meal

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

St. Luke Orthodox Church presents

Beethoven:

Piano Concerto No. 3

Capping Beethoven's 255th birthday

featuring

St. Luke's parishioner

Dilara Khalilova, Pianist

With Members of the

St. Luke Symphony

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL MALOUF

Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 1:00 pm

St. Luke's Orthodox Church

13261 Dunklee Avenue, Garden Grove

St.Luke.Orchestra@gmail.com

Forward Alliance Lake Balboa Park Project

The plans by "Forward Alliance Los Angeles" is available by viewing the following link: <http://www.forwardalliance.org/> Linda Gravani, President of the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council (LBNC) reported that the Council is in favor of the proposed project (shown on the link), however opposed to the proposed 250 affordable housing units by the City of Los Angeles (shown as #17 on the site plan) that is not part of the FALA proposed plan. Federal Funds were used for the existing "Park and Ride" in the location of the proposed housing units. Public transportation is part of a long-range plan for the Sepulveda Pass to UCLA and the elimination of the parking at the corner of Victory and Balboa will be a disadvantage for commuters. The Van Nuys Airport is now providing weekly private flights to Maui. The Airtel Plaza is now closed after 40 years. The airport site plan posed difficulty for the hotel/restaurant/Conference Center. For more information go to: <https://lakebalboanc.org/2025/10/airtel-plaza-hotel-to-close-after-40-years/>

ST. MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH PRESENTS

BRING YOUR FAITH TO LIFE WITH

THE LION'S DEN

A FOUR-WEEK SMALL GROUP STUDY

WHEN

February 2, 9, 16, 23

WHERE:

St. Michael Antiochian
Orthodox Church | VAN NUYS, CA

What We'll Cover:

- ▶ Finding Authenticity in Christ
- ▶ Growing Intentional Discipleship
- ▶ Setting Faithful Priorities
- ▶ Pursuing God Together

Who Should Attend:

- ▶ Men Ages 18 and Older
- ▶ Parishioners, Inquirers, & Catechumens

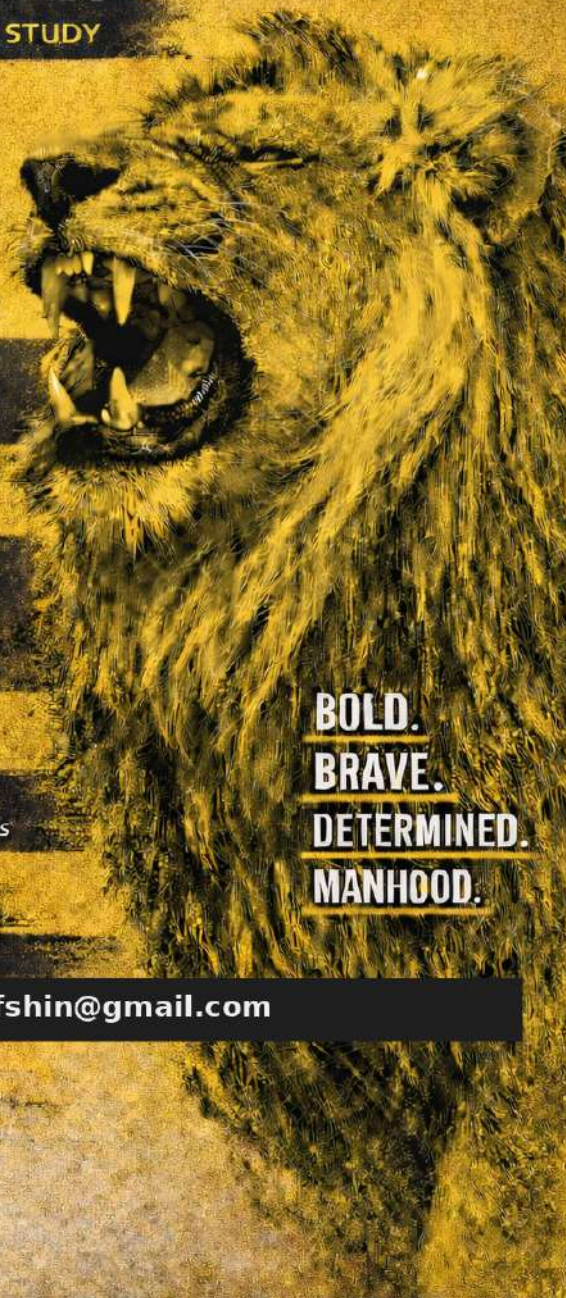
For More Info & RSVP

Nathan Afshin

818-825-6442 • Nathanafshin@gmail.com

LIONHEART
SESSIONS

BOLD.
BRAVE.
DETERMINED.
MANHOOD.



Bookstore Receives New Stock Items

Stop by the Bookstore and see the updated selection of icons and books that have arrived.

Preparing for Great Lent

Wednesday Evening Lenten Meal - Following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy each Wednesday evening during Great Lent, a simple Lenten meal will be provided following Liturgy. It is the sole purpose for the meal, following the Pre-sanctified Liturgy, to provide a simple and uncomplicated offering of food and not a full dinner. The Lenten meal is for renewed strength for those who have fasted in preparation for Holy Communion at the evening Liturgy, and like our coffee hour, is not a fundraiser. The meal should be modest, not elaborate, and not require accumulating leftovers. This will also reduce the need for time consuming clean-up by the host(s). **The Wednesday evening Liturgies begin at 6 p.m. and not 6:30.** This start time will avoid eating late, and to also provide enough time for travel home, especially when children get up early for school in the morning, and many begin another workday. Contact Father Timothy at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org should you be interested in reserving the following dates: March 9, 30 and April 2 and 9. Note: The Pre-sanctified Liturgy is the Liturgy for all of the forty-day weekdays of Great Lent. The festal Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated on the Saturday (for the departed) and St. Basil the Great on Sunday (for the Resurrection), when wine and oil are permitted. In vigilant communities, like monasteries, the Pre-sanctified Liturgy and Lenten meal is the sole sustenance for the faithful during Great Lent. It is also important to keep in mind that our Lenten discipline is the practice that includes: fasting, prayer and good works—all three.

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

EOTHINON 11

الايوثينا 11

tone 8

اللعن 8

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE (ZACCHAEUS)

GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Venerable Demetrios the sacristan; New-martyr Auxentios of Constantinople

أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللعن الثامن
انحدرت من العلو يا متحن، وقبلت الدفن ذا الثلاثة الأيام، لكي نعتقنا من
الآلام، فيا حياتنا وقيامتنا، يا رب المجد لك.

أبوليتيكيون القديس غريغوريوس الثاوثوغوس باللعن الأول
إن مزمارة لاهوتك الرعائي غلب أبواق الخطباء. فقد بحثت في أعماق الروح
وأضيف لك حسن التكلم. فتشفع إلى المسيح الإله، يا أبانا غريغوريوس، في
خلاص نفوسنا.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللعن الرابع
أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسل إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتى أكرم
بطلبكم تكتنوفونا بظل أجنحة مجدكم غير الهولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجائين
والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أكرم رؤساء مراتب القوات العلوية.

فنداق دخول السيد إلى الهيكل باللحن الأول
أيها المسيح الإله، يا من بمولده قدس المستودع البتولي، وبارك يدي
سمعان كما لاق، وأدركنا الآن وخلصنا؛ احفظ رعيتك بسلام في الحروب،
وأيد الملوك الذين أحببتهم، بما أنك وحدك محب للبشر

الرسالة

(للقدّيس غريغوريوس الثاويثوغوس)
فمي يتكلّم بالحكمة وقلبي يهدّ بالفهم.
اسمعوا هذا يا شعوب.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى العبرانيين. (7: 26-8: 2)

يا إخوة، كان يليق بنا رئيس كهنة مثل هذا، قدوس بلا شر ولا دنس، قد انفصل عن
الخطاة وصار أعلى من السماوات الذي ليس له اضطراب كل يوم مثل رؤساء الكهنة أن
يقدم ذبائح أولاً عن خطايا نفسه ثم عن خطايا الشعب، لأنه فعل هذا مرة واحدة، إذ قدّم
نفسه. فإن الناموس يقيم أناساً بهم ضعف رؤساء كهنة. وأمّا كلمة القسم التي بعد
الناموس فتقيم ابناً مكملًا إلى الأبد. وأمّا رأس الكلام فهو: أن لنا رئيس كهنة مثل هذا،
قد جلس في يمين عرش العظمة في السماوات خادماً للأقداس والمسكن الحقيقي الذي
نصبه الرب لا إنسان. لأن كل رئيس كهنة يقام لكي يقدم قربان وذبائح. فمن ثم يلزم أن
يكون لهذا أيضاً شيء يقدمه.

الإنجيل

(لأحد الخامس عشر من لوقا)

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.
(10: 1-19)

في ذلك الزمان، فيما يسوع مجتاز في أريحا، إذا برجل اسمه زكا كان رئيساً على
العشارين، وكان غنياً وكان يلتمس أن يرى يسوع من هو، فلم يكن يستطيع من الجمع
لأنه كان قصير القامة فتقدم مسرعاً، وصعد إلى جميزة لينظره، لأنه كان مزمعاً أن

يَجْتَازَ بِهَا. فَلَمَّا انْتَهَى يَسُوعُ إِلَى الْمَوْضِعِ، رَفَعَ طَرْفَهُ فَرَأَاهُ، فَقَالَ لَهُ: يَا زَكََّا اسْرِعْ انْزِلْ،
فَالْيَوْمَ يَنْبَغِي لِي أَنْ أَمْكُثَ فِي بَيْتِكَ. فَأَسْرَعَ وَنَزَلَ وَقَبِلَهُ فَرِحًا. فَلَمَّا رَأَى الْجَمِيعُ ذَلِكَ
تَذَمَّرُوا قَائِلِينَ: إِنَّهُ دَخَلَ لِيَحِلَّ عِنْدَ رَجُلٍ خَاطِيٍّ. "فَوَقَفَ زَكََّا وَقَالَ لِيَسُوعَ: هَاءَنْذَا، يَا رَبُّ،
أُعْطِي الْمَسَاكِينَ نِصْفَ أَمْوَالِي. وَإِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ غَبَنْتُ أَحَدًا فِي شَيْءٍ، أَرُدُّ أَرْبَعَةَ أَضْعَافٍ
فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: الْيَوْمَ قَدْ حَصَلَ الْخَلَاصُ لِهَذَا الْبَيْتِ لِأَنَّهُ هُوَ أَيْضًا ابْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لِأَنَّ ابْنَ
الْبَشَرِ إِنَّمَا أَتَى لِيَطْلُبَ وَيُخَلِّصَ مَا قَدْ هَلَكَ.
