

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. Fr. Minas Sarchizian, Assisting Priest fatherminas@gmail.com

Rev. Deacon Andrew Monsue armcopper@gmail.com

Subdeacon Richard Tamoush Tamoush.Richard@gmail.com

Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Pastoral Assistant rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.com

Parish Council Chair - Kris Thabit kthabit66@hotmail.com

Council Vice-Chair - Constantine Nasr , Jr. constantinenasr@icloud.com

Council Secretary - Michael Mitchell mgmitchell3@gmail.com

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

Assistant Treasurer - Britton McLinn britton@stmichaelvannuys.org

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 Director - Cooper Rowe superintendent@stmichaelvannuys.org

Youth Director - Cooper Rowe crowe31@gmail.com

Hospitality Ministry Coordinator - William Nehme nehmewilliam03@gmail.com

Men's Fellowship - Sam Azzam - mensministry@stmichaelvannuys.org

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

Stewardship Chair - Constantine Nasr constantinenasr@icloud.com

Communications Chair - Michael Paraskevas michaelparaskevas13@gmail.com

Bookstore Manager - Bobbi Monsue bobbi_monsue@att.net

Golf Classic Co-Chairs

Don Meena donmeena@sbcglobal.net

Fred Milkie, Jr. milkief@aol.com

Website - Dan Raju and Joseph Wang jpw378@gmail.com

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

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

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost and the Eighth Sunday of Matthew

Our Righteous Fathers Isaacius, Dalmatus, and Faustus; Salome the myrrh-bearer;
Venerable Anthony the Roman, wonderworker of Novgorod

Sunday, August 03, 2025

Tone 7; Eothinon 8

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 7)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

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 Holy Transfiguration (Tone 7)

[in anticipation of the Feast of the Holy Transfiguration on August 6th]

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (1:10-17)

Brethren, I appeal to you, by the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissension among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my

brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest anyone should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

THE GOSPEL (for the Eighth Sunday of Matthew)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew
(14:14-22)**

At that time, when Jesus went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to Heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

The Synaxarion

On August 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the venerable and God-bearing fathers Isaacius, Dalmatus and Faustus of the Dalmaton monastery.

Verses

By three men, O Most High, is Thy throne surrounded:

One, Faustus; two, Isaacius; three, Dalmatus.

On the third, Dalmatus, Faustus and Isaac died.

At first, Dalmatus was an officer during the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Great whom the emperor held in great esteem. When the spirit awakened in him, Dalmatus despised all earthly things, resigned his rank and took his only son Faustus and, with him, went to the community of Isaacius in the outskirts of Constantinople where they both were tonsured as monks. Dalmatus was completely devoted to a God-pleasing life for which the elder Isaacius rejoiced. When Isaacius approached the hour of death, he appointed Dalmatus as abbot in his place. Later, this community was named after him—the so-called Dalmaton. Dalmatus devoted himself to fasting, at times for forty days. By fasting he conquered the invisible demonic power. He participated in the Third Ecumenical Council in Ephesus in 431 and fought against the Nestorian heresy. Pleasing God, he died peacefully in the fifth century. His son Faustus supported his father in everything and, after a God-pleasing life, died peacefully in the Dalmaton community.

On this day, we also commemorate Salome the myrrh-bearer; and Venerable Anthony the Roman, wonderworker of Novgorod. By the intercessions of Thy saints, 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 communicant.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread and memorial wheat are being offered this morning by the Simon family for the forty-day memorial of the newly-departed servant of God, Leroy Simon (+30 May, 2025). Memory eternal

Holy Bread is also being offered by Mae Tortolano for her daughter, Cristina, for God's healing mercy, and that He will grant wisdom and guidance to her diligent caregivers

Holy Bread is also being offered for the good health and protection of Elisa Milkie as she celebrates her birthday; offered by her loving family. Prayers are also offered for the repose of the newly departed Najat Nicola (+16 July, 2025) and Father Minas Sarchizian (+22 July, 2025) by the Milkie family. May their memory be eternal.

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

for the continued health of Marcia O'Dea

by Barbara & Fred Nicola for the birthdays of Charlotte Nicola Swain (July 7th), Leo Danova (July 29), Page Danova (August 11) and Emmett Nicola (August 15). May God grant them many years!

for the continued health of Laila Abughazaleh

for the continued health of Margaret Soffa

for the continued recovery and good health of Esshak Sayegh

Included in our prayers throughout the month of August are those celebrating their birthday: Fuad Rafidi (8/1), Jonathan Kenneth Contes (8/2), Margaret Abdun-Nur (8/2), Ava Rose Hage (8/2), Gabrielle Camacho (8/3), Dr. George Kudmani (8/3), Sabine Moujaes (8/3), Linda Andrews (8/4), Elisa Milkie (8/4), Marcelle Rowihab (8/4), Patricia Malouf (8/5), Blake Zoe Murr (8/6), Charlotte Murr (8/6), Nicholas Andrews (8/9), Juliana Aparicio (8/9), Nichola Hallak (8/9), Joseph Mallouk (8/9), Billy Gross (8/10), Samir Boutari (8/10), Amal Makhoul (8/10), Sophia Minassian (8/10), Paige Nicola (8/11), Diane Saba (8/11), Audrey Waldman (8/11), Michael Horaney (8/12), Lucas John Abughazaleh (8/13), Ruta McLinn (8/13), Aristides Katerelos (8/14), Albert Bitar, Jr. (8/15), Emmett Nicola (8/15), Basima Sayegh (8/15), Michael A. Haddad (8/18), Elias Ababseh (8/18), Gloria Mittry (8/19), Chad Blair (8/20), Diana Nasser (8/18), Madelyn Palmer (8/20), Adhanet Woldemichael (8/21), Praneet Panga (8/22), Karoleen Ababseh (8/23), Emily Apostolou (8/23), Robert Camacho (8/23), Molly Anne McCarron (8/23), Armenak Artashesyan (8/25), Katherine Leilani Baclig (8/25), Celine Marie Srour (8/26), Raquel Randy Ababseh (8/27), Gerald Aboud (8/27), Rami Abughazaleh (8/28), Sonia Karam (8/30), George Mallouk (8/30), Megan Monsue (8/30); and those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Hanna & Rima Sweis (8/8) Tiffany & Tom Akoury (8/12), Phil & Katie Nassief (8/16), Walter & Christina Rygiol (8/16), Marilee & Charles Ajalat (8/17), Riad & Diana Nasser (8/18), Kelly & Kenneth Malouf (8/19); Michael & Kelly Meena (8/22), Sean & Robin O'Dea (8/22), Johny & Edlin Sweis (8/25), Randy & Genevieve Ababseh (8/27), Nickie & Chuck Malouf (8/27), Richard & Cindy Tamoush (8/27), Sylvana & Daniel Barney (8/28), John & Carrie Khouri (8/28), Joseph & Erica Kneizeh (8/28), Rose Ann & Frank E. Skaff (8/28), Sandi & Jeff Gorup (8/29), Vanessa & David Obenhaus (8/31). May God grant them many years!

Michael T. Saliba, +31 Aug., 1953
 Martha Solomon, +27 Aug., 1960
 Salama Yanni, +13 Aug., 1961
 Elmer S. Miller, +14 Aug., 1961
 Angelina Diab, +28 Aug., 1961
 Hazel Boyer, Aug., 1965
 George A. Barkett, +13 Aug., 1969
 Michelle Hogue, +2 Aug., 1972
 Edward J. Andrews, +9 Aug., 1974
 Shikri Massabni, +26 Aug., 1977
 Edna Zraick, +20 Aug., 1979
 Elizabeth Pitkart, +22 Aug., 1980
 Labiba Filipous +Aug., 1984
 Nancy Leo Courey, +15 Aug., 1985
 Michel Razook, Sr., +16 Aug., 1985
 Jad Salem Dabbour, +5 Aug., 1988
 John T. Black, Sr., +25 Aug., 1988
 Ernest Kaleel, +2 Aug., 1989
 Wadih Mattar, +28 Aug., 1989
 Robert Soffa, +11 Aug., 1991
 Sarah Ansara, +16 Aug., 1992
 Donna Rae Hallak, +22 Aug., 1992
 Stephanie H. Siano, +18 Aug., 1993
 Afton Bailey, +15 Aug., 1995
 Issa Saadeh, +21 Aug., 1995
 Richard Kayaleh, +18 Aug., 1996
 Carolyn Cates, +8 Aug., 1998
 Henry Antoniewicz, +14 Aug., 1998
 Diab Makhoul, +25 Aug., 1999
 Helen Hatem, +6 Aug., 2000
 Marvin Adams, +17, Aug., 2000
 Mary Klimowych, +12 Aug., 2001
 Rev. Fr. Cosmo Ansara, +12 Aug. 2001
 Sadie Skaff, +19 Aug., 2001
 Mary Kiley, +3 Aug., 2002
 Frank Hallak, +11 Aug., 2002

Carmile Adeeb, +17 Aug., 2002
 Lenore Baba, +24 Aug., 2002
 Rose Deeb, +31 Aug., 2002
 Linda Koudsi, +31 Aug., 2004
 Joyce Skaff, +1 Aug., 2024
 Margaret Satel, +25 Aug., 2005
 Evelyn Barghash, +22 Aug., 2006
 Lena Nassief, +16 Aug., 2007
 Chris Reisch, +24 Aug., 2007
 Mary Zaki, +26 Aug., 2008
 Donna Cruzan, +11 Aug., 2009
 Carmen Satel, +13 Aug., 2009
 Carolee Khalil, +24 Aug., 2010
 Dr. Martha Barba, +13 Aug., 2011
 Miladeh Saadeh, +25 Aug., 2011
 Eula Martha Cates, +25 Aug., 2011
 Alex Akoury, +27 Aug., 2011
 Adeeb G. Sadd, +31 Aug., 2011
 Sabin Nassif, +27 Aug., 2011
 Eli Shaheen, +02 Aug., 2013
 Joseph David, +04 Aug., 2013
 Albert "Al" Coury, Sr., +08 Aug., 2013
 Cheryl Cambridge, +01 Aug., 2015
 Rose Jones, +01 Aug., 2015
 Elizabeth Lamar, +18 Aug., 2017
 Dr. Sakae Kawata, +26 Aug. 2017
 Floyd Farha, +12 Aug., 2018
 Jamilie Rabadi, +29 Aug. 2018
 Mary (Berry) Evans, +2 August, 2020
 George Butros, +17 August, 2020
 Rainer Gruetzmacher, +7 August, 2021
 V. Rev. Gregory Ofiesh, +11 August 2021
 Emile F. Skaff, +24 August, 2021
 Khouriye Helen Ashie, +25 August, 2021
 Ibrahim Wassef, +4 August, 2022
 Armand Berberi, +25 August, 2022

Memory Eternal!

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

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Los Angeles
And The West

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

July 31, 2025
Martyr Dionysios the Righteous of Vatopaidi

Dear Presbyteria Stela Nicoleta, daughter Mary, and the Sarchizian Family,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I was saddened to hear of the falling asleep in the Lord of our beloved Father Minas. Though I did not know him well, from what I have heard, he was a wonderful man: humble, truthful, gentle, and most importantly a faithful priest of our Most High God ~ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! He was deeply committed to his Life in Christ and the faithful he served. Fr. Minas diligently worked to grow and nourish his sheep with the Good News of our Risen Lord. I am sure he gave you so many wonderful memories you will cherish forever.

There are many scriptural verses you can choose to remember this beloved priest of God, but I think of these from the holy Apostle Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, chapter 4, verses 7 and 8: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award me on that day, not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."*

Be assured of my prayers and the prayers of our Diocesan Clergy for all of you during this time.

May Fr. Minas's memory be eternal with all of the saints and may our loving and most compassionate God grant your family comfort and peace.

May God bless and be with you always.

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY
Bishop of Los Angeles
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

Chancery of Los Angeles and the West
454 South Lorraine Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90020

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Fast of the Holy Dormition - August 1-14; and **Feast - August 15**

[we observe the traditional fasting discipline (no meal, poultry, fish, milk, cheese, eggs, wine and olive oil) Monday-Friday and the eve of the Feast, Thursday, August 14, with provision for wine and olive oil on Saturday and Sunday; fish, wine and oil on the Feast of the Holy Transfiguration (August 6th)]

Paraklesis (Intercessory Prayer Service) – Tuesday, August 5th and 12th at 6:30 p.m.

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost and the Ninth Sunday of Matthew

Saturday, August 9 — Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Bible Study Zoom Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2023 following the *Paraklesis* Service of Intercessory Prayer

Our next Bible Study on Tuesday evening, August 5th, will follow our Prayer Service of the *Paraklesis*. Study sessions are recorded for those unable to attend who may also request the link to the study. Attendance is required for all catechumens.



Metropolitan SABA's Convention Address (in English and Arabic)

View Metropolitan SABA's Address to the Archdiocese Convention. Go to: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2526> Highlights of the Convention with photos, recaps are provided with the following link: [highlights blog](#) along with the [announcement](#) of the election of the Board of Trustees.

Coming Soon!

The Archdiocese's new "[Antiochian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Online Music School](#)." With the enthusiastic blessing of Sayidna Saba, the school will offer virtual classes for Byzantine chant and choral singing for church

musicians, new or experienced, starting the week of September 9. The school will also offer a course on the Typicon and how to arrange the divine services. Registration begins August 18!

Raies-Murr Educational Trust Scholarship

Only members, in good standing of St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church (Van Nuys) or St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral (Los Angeles) and who have been accepted to or are currently enrolled in a **publicly supported** (not private) institution of higher learning, including eligible **publicly supported** vocational, technical and trade schools, are eligible to apply for a Raies-Murr Scholarship. Applications can be obtained by e-mailing Mallory Murr or Vanessa Obenhaus at: raiesmurrscholarship@gmail.com The applications must be returned by August 4, 2025.

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Aug 06 (Feast of the Holy Transfiguration)

Aug 10 - Bobbi Monsue

Aug 15 (Feast of the Holy Dormition)

Aug 17 - Ron & Kathy Zraick

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. Here is the link: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmc>]

St. Mark Church 40th Anniversary Celebration - Saturday, August 16
Irvine Hilton Hotel; 6 p.m.

Pan-Orthodox Summer Music Festival

Saturday, August 23, 2025; 3 p.m., Reception 5 p.m.
St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
[1621 West Garvey Ave. Alhambra, CA 91803]

Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year - September 1st

Fall Gathering — October 10-12
hosted by St. Peter and Paul Church (Ben Lomond, California)

THE ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

of Greater Los Angeles
Featuring Orthodox Christian choirs from Greater Los Angeles



“WE MAGNIFY THEE”:

A concert of Sacred Music

Performed by Orthodox Christian Choirs in Southern California

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025

Concert 3:00 p.m.—Reception 5:00 p.m.—Vespers 6:00 p.m.

Saint Steven's Cathedral
1621 West Garvey Avenue—Alhambra, CA 91803



EVERYONE WELCOME! CONCERT ADMISSION: FREE!

Pastor's Eulogy at the Funeral of Father Minas Sarchizian July 31, 2025

View the Eulogy with the link provided below.



To view the entire Funeral on Facebook go to: [https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelAntiochianOrthodoxChurchVanNuys?__cft__\[0\]=AZXEa2JI7EHN6D07tE1TmrhvsvHjuPffr1c4dw6BHmKeNXu_zmUazg87zDUd4eP630S01HPICxjgbrATqg90TgIhXOuvPgrbfi3VHF9S0vYVukeqSpv7Rm2DnlBIiNEmQe9wtctUCRBxNsC_i8VkvZh0H9oINZGpoFpl72E0vM3grxn6iUoYDIMNmdSofBNI7RIC2AFjG_nQw_FgN5K5D1a9&_tn=-\]K-R](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelAntiochianOrthodoxChurchVanNuys?__cft__[0]=AZXEa2JI7EHN6D07tE1TmrhvsvHjuPffr1c4dw6BHmKeNXu_zmUazg87zDUd4eP630S01HPICxjgbrATqg90TgIhXOuvPgrbfi3VHF9S0vYVukeqSpv7Rm2DnlBIiNEmQe9wtctUCRBxNsC_i8VkvZh0H9oINZGpoFpl72E0vM3grxn6iUoYDIMNmdSofBNI7RIC2AFjG_nQw_FgN5K5D1a9&_tn=-]K-R)

Pastor's Sermon
The Eighth Sunday of Matthew
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
August 03, 2025

The Church Fathers interpreted the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand heard in today's reading as an anticipation of Holy Communion in which Christ offers Himself to us as the heavenly bread. In the book of Exodus (16:4-16) of the Old Testament, when the Israelites had escaped from Egypt but then faced terrible hunger in the wilderness, God sent food to satisfy His people. In the days of Jesus God again acted by sending His Son to feed His people not only with bread but also with the truth of His teachings.

The Church Fathers point out that just as the Israelites were miraculously fed in the wilderness, Jesus miraculously fed the multitude that followed him. However, what is not similar about these two events is that the miracle of the food that was provided for the Israelites in the wilderness was not enough in and of itself to cause them to follow the Law of God and to obey His commandments. Their experience was not something that helped them to seek anything beyond their physical hunger in the wilderness. Unlike the event of the Israelites in Exodus, the multitudes that followed our Lord were drawn to Him and were motivated with a hunger to hear Christ message. They sought Him with no thought of their need to eat a meal.

In the New Testament Jesus declares Himself to be the True Bread from heaven given by the Father, and so the food in the desert and the bread of the Gospel miracle are both signs of that True Bread. In a section following the account of the miracle of the five loaves and fishes in chapter six of St. John's Gospel, Jesus said, *I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty (verse 35). Your forefathers ate in the desert, yet they died. But there is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever. This is my flesh which I give for the life of the world"* (verses 49-51).

The Lord's Prayer found in Matthew, chapter 6, provides us with another phrase that helps our understanding of what this means. ...*give us this day our daily bread...* The expression "daily bread" should not be understood as merely pertaining to the bread of this very day; the bread that sustains our life; rather: It is the bread for the eternal day of God's Kingdom – what sustains us for immortal life. It is the living "super essential" Bread – Christ Himself: The Bread of Life.

Immediately following this lesson our Lord teaches His disciples about fasting (v. 16ff). We happen to be entering the period of the Dormition Fast (August 1-14). One of the purposes of the fast, as with other periods of fasting in the church, is to remind us of the words of our Lord who said, *[Do not labor] for the [food] which perishes, but for the [food] which endures unto everlasting life which the Son of Man will give to you (John 6:27)*. And in the words of St. Paul (Romans 14:7): *The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*.

Important to our understanding about the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood as Orthodox Christians, is that we believe and understand that when a person is united to Christ in receiving Holy Communion, he or she does so acknowledging being united with Christ's teaching. The two are inseparable. Unlike other Christian traditions, in our church, Christ's teaching is not a subjective matter or the subject of one's personal interpretation.

If we read further into the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel we hear these words: *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ...as the living Father sent me..., so the one who feeds on me will live because of me*" (verses 52-57). It is also recorded that it was precisely at this point that the Gospel records that many of the disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

And so, my beloved, we see that our Tradition is not as accommodating to our temporal desires. Its purpose is not to temporarily pacify or satisfy our earthly desires. Surely, you and I ask God for many things... But it can be very liberating for you and I when we discover that being members of God's Kingdom pertains to all that is beyond our personal wants and temporal needs: unlike the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt. Our liberation focuses upon Christ as our Source and Bread of Life. He, who illumines, renews and regenerates, forgives and heals, purifies and sanctifies. He is Who saves and sustains us; all who are repentant sinners, the sick and down-trodden.

The Church is first and foremost the Body of Christ. Its success is not centered or focused around human personalities. Perhaps in the case of the Israelites it was Moses. We just heard in today's epistle another very important lesson regarding the divisions that arose among the faithful and that the Apostle Paul messages about. It involved the various personalities that had become

prominent leaders and who obviously had a very successful following. It may have been that they were good speakers; charismatic personalities. But the Apostle reminds them something that we too cannot forget: The message is Christ's and it is He in whose name we are baptized and it is He who saves us.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, You blessed the five loaves in the wilderness, and from them five thousand were filled. O Bread of Life, feed us with your Word. Nourish us with wisdom. Grant us your blessing and multiply our resources that we also may be merciful and generous at all times, especially for those who are in need. For you, O Christ our God, do bless and sanctify all things, and are also the Heavenly Bread, and the Fountain of immortality, and to You do we give glory, together with your Eternal Father and Your life-giving Spirit, now and forever. A-men.

أَخَذَ غَيْرَهُمْ. لِأَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ لَمْ يَرْسِلْنِي لِأَعِيدَ، بَلْ لِأُبَشِّرَ لَا بِحِكْمَةٍ كَلَامٍ لِيَدَّ لِلَّهِ يُبْتَطَلُ صَلَيبُ الْمَسِيحِ.

الإنجيل

الأحد الثامن من متى

فصلٌ شريف من بشاره القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير

في ذلك الزمان، أبصر يسوع جمعاً كثيراً، ففتح عليهم وأبصر أوتاراً من ضاههم. ولما كان المساء، دنا إليه تلاميذه وقالوا: "إن المكان قفر، والساعة قد فانت. فاصنرف الجموع لينذهبوا إلى القرى ويبتاعوا لهم طعاماً." فقال لهم يسوع: "لا حاجة لهم إلى الذهاب. أعطوهم أنتم ليأكلوا." فقالوا له: "ما عندنا ههنا إلا خمسة أرغفة وستكتان." فقال لهم: "هلم بها إلي إلى ههنا." وأمر بجلوس الجموع على العشب. ثم أخذ الخمسة الأرغفة والتمسكتين، ونظر إلى السماء، وبارك، وكسر، وأعطى الأرغفة لتلاميذه، والتلاميذ للجموع. فأكلوا جميعهم وشبعوا، ورفعوا ما فضل من الكسر اثنتي عشرة قفة مملوءة. وكان الأكلون خمسة آلاف رجل، سوي النساء والصبيان. ولوقت اضطر يسوع تلاميذه أن يدخلوا السفينة ويتبقوه إلى الغد، حتى يصنرف الجموع.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & EIGHTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHERS ISAACIUS, DALMATUS, AND FAUSTUS
SALOME THE MYRRH-BEARER
VENERABLE ANTHONY THE ROMAN, WONDERWORKER OF NOVGOROD

الأحد الثامن من متى

أبوليتيكيون القيامة بالبحن السابع

خطمت بصليبك الموت، وفتحت لبص الفردوس، وحولت نوح حاملات الطيب، وأمرت رسلك أن يكرزوا، بأنك قد فمت أيها المسيح الإله، مائحا العالم الرخمة العظمى.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالبحن الرابع

أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، تتوسل إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتى أنكم بطلبكم أكتفوننا بظن أجنحة مجدكم غير الهولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجائين والصارخين بغير قنور، انقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوات العلوية.

فقدان عيد التجلي بالبحن السابع

تجلت أيها المسيح الإله على الجبل، وحسبنا وسع تلاميذك شاهدوا مجدك. حتى عندما يعاينونك مصلوباً، يظنون أن الامك طوعاً باختيارك، ويكرزوا للعالم، أنك أنت بالحقيقة شعاع الأب.

الرسالة

الرَّبُّ يُعْطِي قُوَّةً لِسُوعِيهِ.
قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ.

فَصْنَنْ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرُّسُولِ الْأَوَّلِيِّ إِلَى أَهْلِ كُورِنْثُوسِ.

يا إخوة، أطلب إليكم باسم ربنا يسوع المسيح أن تقولوا جميعكم قولاً واحداً، وأن لا يكون بينكم شقاق، بل تكونوا متكلمين بفكرٍ ورايٍ واحد. فقد أخبرتني عنكم، يا إخوتي، أهل خلوي، أن بينكم خصوصيات. أعني أن كل واحد منكم يقول "أنا لبولس أو أنا لابولس، أو أنا لصفا أو أنا للمسيح." ألع المسيح قد تجرأ؟ ألع بولس صليب لأجلكم؟ أو باسم بولس اعتمدتم؟ أشكر الله أني لم أعتمد منكم أحداً سوى كرسين وغايوس. لنلا يقول أحد إني عمدت باسمي. وعمدت أيضاً أهل بيت استفاناس. وما عدا ذلك، فلا أعلم، هل عمدت

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عومية المشاركة فيه لذوي العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقصور 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 مراسيم القداس.
الرجاء مراجعة الكاهن إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً في الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية.