

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 - Michelle Moujaes michellemoujaes@gmail.com

Young Adult Ministry Coordinator - George Khouri khourigj@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

and Fred Milkie mildief@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 Glorious and Brilliant Feast of the Entrance of Our Lord Jesus Christ Into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Apolytikion of Lazarus (Tone 1)

O Christ our God, by raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection. Wherefore, we like children, carry the banner of triumph and victory, cry to Thee, O Conquerer of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Apolytikion of Palm Sunday (Tone 4)

O Christ God, when we were buried with Thee in Baptism, we became deserving of Thy Resurrection to immortal life. Wherefore we praise Thee crying, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Kontakion of Palm Sunday (Tone 4)

Being borne upon a throne in Heaven, and upon a colt on the earth, O Christ God, Thou didst accept the praise of the angels and the laudation of the children as they cried to Thee: Blessed is He Who cometh to recall Adam.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for Palm Sunday)

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians (4:4-9)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,

whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, these do; and the God of peace will be with you.

THE GOSPEL (for Palm Sunday)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. John
(12:1-18)**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with Him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of His Disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of My burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that He was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His Disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard He had done this sign.

The Synaxarion

Today in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate Palm Sunday, the glorious and brilliant entrance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. Jesus came to Bethany on the Sunday falling before the six days of the Mosaic Passover. On the following day He sent two of His Disciples, who brought Him a donkey on which He sat to enter the city. And when the great multitude heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they immediately took palm branches in their hands and went out to meet Him. All cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, King of Israel!" The branches of palm trees were a symbol of Christ's victory over Satan and death. And the meaning of "Hosanna" is, "We pray Thee, save." The donkey's colt, which was still an untamed animal, and impure according to the law, as well as Christ's sitting thereon, symbolize the former savagery and impurity of the Gentiles; and their subsequent taming and obedience to the holy law of the Gospel. *To our Lord Jesus Christ, the vanquisher of sin and death, be glory, honor and worship, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is offered for the Feast of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday by Nicholas & Monica Juganu with prayers for the continued health of their family.

Holy Bread is offered by Marcia O'Dea in memory of our beloved father and grandfather, Abdulla; mother-in-law and grandmother, Theodora. Memory eternal.

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

by Mae Tortolano of the servant of God, Travis A. Namay (+7 April, 1991) who's life ended in a tragic accident, and for the toddler-son of Nancy and my nephew/Godson, Alan George Namay (+21 September, 2022); father and son together again in God's heaven—gone but not forgotten,
"Play ball!" Memory eternal.

for the healing and speedy recovery of Jean Pierre Saadeh by his mother, Nazli Saadeh and aunt, Lili Soltainazad.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Antoine Al-Matni, (+28 March, 2026). Memory eternal.

for the repose of the servant of God, James Tintocalis (+20 April, 2014).
Memory eternal.

for Carolyn Sadd, by her family, on the occasion of her birthday (April 2).
May God grant her many years! Also for the good health of Chrisa Sadd.

**His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA**



**Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America**

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 147/2026

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2026

Beloved hierarchs, reverend clergy, esteemed faithful in Christ,

Christ is in our midst! As we enter the solemn and life-giving days of Holy Week, our hearts turn with love and filial devotion to our Mother Church of Antioch and to our Father in Christ, His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X. Each Palm Sunday, the Archdiocese takes up a special collection to support the Patriarchate in its sacred witness. This year, more than ever, your generosity is indispensable.

Our Mother Church continues to endure profound hardship. The ongoing war and strife throughout the Middle East have inflicted deep wounds upon the faithful, the clergy, and the parishes that have stood for centuries as living testimonies of the Gospel. Violence and economic instability have placed unbearable weight on families already struggling to survive. Many of our brothers and sisters face daily uncertainty, and entire communities that once flourished are now diminished.

Yet, the Patriarchate remains steadfast in its mission. With limited means, it tirelessly provides food, housing assistance, medical care, education, pastoral support, and the simple but essential reassurance that the Church has not abandoned her children. His Beatitude and those who labor beside him do all they can to help the faithful who remain, so that their lives may be stable, dignified, and rooted in hope and so that our Christian presence and witness remain steadfast.

For this reason, I ask each of you to give generously to the Palm Sunday collection in your churches for the Patriarchate. Your offering — no matter its size — becomes an act of solidarity, a gesture of compassion, and a tangible expression of love toward those who endure suffering with remarkable faith. Together, we help sustain our brothers and sisters and strengthen the apostolic mission entrusted to the Church of Antioch.

May the Lord Who entered Jerusalem in humility and love, grant you a solemn Holy Week and a joyous and grace-filled Feast of the Resurrection.

With paternal love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Saba". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

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

358 Mountain Road, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Parents and All Catechumens:

Learn the meaning of our offerings and prayers at the Liturgy: Father Timothy will be teaching the children (and any adult interested in having an “up-close” lesson) about the preparation of the Holy Bread offering just before the Lazarus Saturday Liturgy on Saturday, April 4, 2026, beginning at 10 a.m. The prayers for the preparation of the offering at the “table of the offering,” called the *Prothesis* [pro-*THEE*-sus] table, will take place just prior to the beginning of the Divine Liturgy for all to see, with explanations of the prayers and actions by the priest. It will be a beautiful way to begin Holy Week as we celebrate Christ's entrance into the Holy City of Jerusalem.

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>

St. Nicholas Cathedral's 75th Diamond Jubilee Weekend

April 25-26, 2026 [see flier with this bulletin]

Mother's Day Brunch - May 10, 2026

[see flier with this bulletin]

St. Simeon 10 Year Gala - Saturday May 16, 2026

[see flier with this bulletin]

St. Michael Golf Classic - June 29, 2026

[see flier with this bulletin]



Weekly Teaching by Metropolitan SABA (in English and Arabic)

View the message from Metropolitan SABA here, available in English and Arabic: “Pastoral Clarifications on the Holy Sacrament of Anointing:”
<https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2771>

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

Join us for our Pot Luck Paschal Breakfast - May 20th

All who would like to provide a dish for the Paschal Breakfast following the Midnight Liturgy should contact Kris Thabit at: kthabit66@hotmail.com to ensure a menu with a variety of dishes.

Plan to be at church early, this Sunday, when we begin the procession at approximately 10 a.m, at the start of the Liturgy. Lighted candles will not be allowed in the church, only during the procession outdoors, and will be made available in the narthex. We ask that parents plan to attend to their children at all times and take advantage of our balcony for their visibility of the Liturgy with instruction. We will have a special collection at the request of Metropolitan SABA, on behalf of our Patriarchate (see attached letter below). May we all be prepared to enter the full joy of the Lord in the Feast of His Holy Resurrection! V. Rev. Timothy Baclig Pastor

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Lazarus Saturday – April 4th

The Preparation of Gifts (Proskomedia), 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Palm Sunday**

[Note: There are no memorials held on Palm Sunday]

Sunday, April 5th – Orthros, 8:45 a.m.

The Procession of Palms and The Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Complete texts of church services are available on-line at:
<https://antiochian.org/liturgicday>

* For more information on fasting or questions, speak with Father Timothy.

** Fish, wine and oil are permitted on Palm Sunday, April 5th.
Holy Pascha (Easter) is celebrated on Sunday, April 12th.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

NOTE: Confessions will be heard before and/or after the services, or by appointment during the week. It would be most appropriate for confessions to be completed by Holy Wednesday (April 8th) just prior to the Sacrament of Holy Unction and the Holy Thursday morning Liturgy

THE SERVICES OF GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Evening – April 5th

Bridegroom Orthros and Procession, 6:30 p.m.

صلاة الختن الاولى

Great and Holy Monday – April 6th

Bridegroom Orthros and Confessions, 6:30 p.m.

صلاة الختن الثانية

Great and Holy Tuesday – April 7th

Bridegroom Orthros and Confessions, 6:30 p.m.

صلاة الختن الثالثة

Great and Holy Wednesday – April 8th

Confessions

The Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6:30 p.m.

صلاة الزيت المقدس

Great and Holy Thursday – April 9th

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 a.m.

قداس الخميس العظيم

Orthros of the Twelve Passion Gospels, 6:30 p.m.

صلاة إنجيل الآلام

Great and Holy Friday – April 10th

Great Vespers of the Descent from the Cross, 3 p.m. صلاة غروب الجمعة العظيمة

Orthros of the Lamentations and Procession 6:30 p.m.

خدمة جناز المسيح

Great and Holy Saturday – April 11th

Service of the Preparing of the Holy Gifts

(Proskomedía), 9:30 a.m.

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 10 a.m.

صلاة سبت النور العظيم

SERVICES OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION – HOLY PASCHA

The “Rush Procession” Orthros, 11:30 p.m.

قداس الفصح

The Divine Liturgy and “Agape Breakfast”.

يلي القداس فطور المحبة

Holy Pascha – April 12th

The Paschal Vespers of Love (Agape), 11 a.m.

صلاة الباعوث

Paschal Breakfast Following the Paschal Liturgy

The Feast of the Resurrection is soon to arrive and each year there are many ways that we can prepare to celebrate with joy and great anticipation. This includes how you can share in our Paschal “Agape” Breakfast that will follow the Saturday midnight Liturgy in the **early morning** of Sunday, April 12th.

All of the dishes and desserts should be brought to the church prior to the start of the late evening service which begins at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 11th. We anticipate that the breakfast will be served at approximately 1:30 to 2 a.m. on Sunday morning. Please consider one of the following categories:

- a. Main Dish (meat, poultry, fish)
- b. Kid Friendly Meal
- c. Side Dish (Salad, Veggies, Relish Dish, Fruit, etc.)
- d. Desserts or Pastries
- e. Beverages (coffee, tea, juice); soft drinks and water

And if you have no idea, I recommend something that your family enjoys. Children are welcome to attend the service and may bring sleeping bags for the evening in the church balcony. An armed security guard will be on our property.

Some of you may also consider assisting in the kitchen set-up and clean-up if you are unable to prepare a dish. This will help us to save in paying for additional cleaning.

For convenience please use the following Google link to list any items that you plan to bring so we can ensure that we have a variety of dishes for the meal: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yaxoOa0C0x6gpsxSZ3c_JYJut8zffFJ4mVP8_hcamG0/edit?usp=sharing

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. Coin boxes are also available in the narthex. Thank you for your support of our annual Lenten charity campaign.

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

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Apr 09 (Holy Thursday Liturgy) - open

Apr 11 (Holy Saturday) - open

Apr 12 (Holy Pascha) - open

Apr 19 - open

Apr 26 - Ron & Kathy Zraick

The Mitchell family

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.

2026 Antiochian Scholarships

Opportunities for financial aid for students, women, clergy families and more are now available by going to: <https://www.antiochian.org/dashboard?name=Scholarships%20for%20Antiochian%20Students> The application deadlines are fast approaching!

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).

Annual Parish Life Conference

Host: St. George Church; San Diego, California, July 1-5 2026

Go to: <https://www.antiochianevents.com/los-angeles> to register for your hotel room (\$199/night) at the Marriott Marquis San Diego.

Camp Scholarships Now Available

Please see Father Timothy to request a scholarship to St. Nicholas Summer Camp Program as soon as possible to meet the upcoming deadline. You may also e-mail him at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

APRIL
12



*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!



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.





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

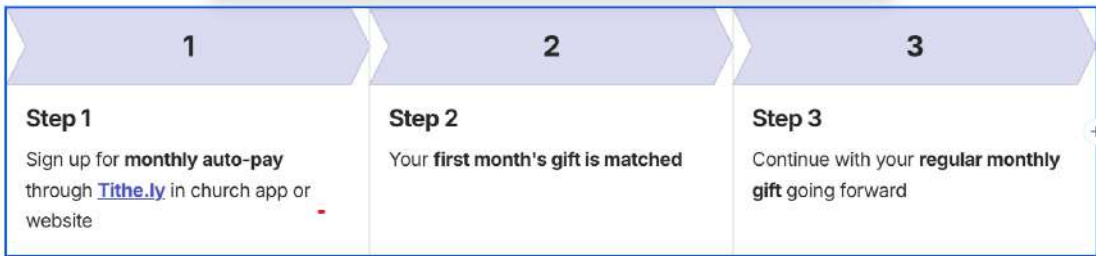
RSVP TO: menministry@stmichaelvannuys.org for a reservation
Suggested Good-Will offering \$10/pp

Double Your Impact

An anonymous parishioner is matching your **first monthly autopay gift** to St. Michael

- Opportunity to double your impact without spending twice as much.
- Build something lasting alongside your parish family
- Limited to \$10,000 matching till end of May
- Risk free: Cancel autopay anytime

How It Works



Get Started

Visit: <https://www.stmichaelvannuys.org/donate> and set up monthly giving

Or speak with Joey Wang, Joseph Price, Praneet Panga or Cindy Tamoush.

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



For Golf Questions Contact:

Don (661) 623-0340

Fred (818) 535-4243

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>



save the date

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

PASADENA HILTON



St. Simeon 10 Year Gala

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP AND CHARITABLE GIVING
AS WE THANK GOD FOR THE BLESSINGS OF THE PAST 10 YEARS
AND EMBRACE THE BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

HONORING

V. Rev. Fr. George Ajalat

FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATION

— & —

WELCOMING

Rev. Fr. Andrew Andrews

AS HE LEADS US INTO THE NEXT DECADE

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT OUR BUILDING FUND

INVITATION TO FOLLOW

ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
INTO JERUSALEM
PALM SUNDAY

دخول ربنا يسوع المسيح المجيد إلى اورشليم
أحد الشعانين

ابوليتيكيون سبت لعازر بالحن الأول

أيها المسيح الإله، لما أقمت لعازر من بين الأموات قبل الأمك، حققت القيامة العامة. لذلك ونحن كأطفال، نحمل علامات الغلبة والظفر، صارخين نخوك يا غالب الموت. أوصنا في الأعلى، مبارك الآتي باسم الرب.

ابوليتيكيون أحد الشعانين بالحن الرابع

أيها المسيح الإله، لما دُفنا معك بالمعمودية، استأهلنا بقيامتك الحياة الخالدة. فحزُّ سُبُحِكَ هاتيين: أوصنا في الأعلى، مبارك الآتي باسم الرب.

الفتاد أحد الشعانين بالحن السادس

يا مَنْ هُوَ جالسٌ على العرش في السماء وراكبٌ جُحشًا على الأرض، لَقَدْ تَقَبَّلْتَ تَسَابِيحَ الملائكة وتماجيد الأطفال، أيها المسيح الإله، هاتيين إليك. مبارك أنت الآتي لتُعِيدَ أدم ثانيًا.

الرسالة

مبارك الآتي باسم الرب

اغترِّفوا للرب فإنه صالح وإن إلى الأبد رحمته
فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل فيليبي

يا إخوة، افرحوا في الرب كل حين وأقول أيضاً افرحوا* وليظهر جملكم لجميع الناس. فإن الرب قريب* لا تهتموا بالثمن، بل في كل شيء فلتكن طلباتكم مغمومة لدى الله بالصلاة والتضرع مع الشكر.* وليحفظ سلام الله، الذي يفوق كل عقل، فلوبكم ويصانركم في يسوع المسيح* وبعد أيها الإخوة، مهما يكن من حق، ومهما يكن من غفاب، ومهما يكن من عدل، ومهما يكن من طهارة، ومهما يكن من صفة محتببة، ومهما يكن من حسن صيد، إن تكن فضيلة، وإن يكن مدح، ففي هذه افكروا.* وما تعلمتموه، وتسلمتموه، وسمعتهموه، ورايتهموه في، فيهدا اعملوا، وإله السلام يكون معكم.

الإنجيل

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس يوحنا

ثم قبل الفصح بسبته أيام أتى يسوع إلى بيت عنيا، حيث كان لعازر الميت الذي أقامه من الأموات. فاستنوا له هناك عشاء. وكانت مرثا تخدم، وأما لعازر فكان أحد المتكئين معه فأخذت مرثا مناً من طيب تاردين خالص كثير الثمن، وذهنت قدمي يسوع، ومستحنت قدميه بشعرها، فأمتلأ البيت من رائحة الطيب. فقال واحد من تلاميذه، وهو يهوذا سمعان الإسخر يوطي، المزمع أن يسلمه: «لماذا لم ينع هذا الطيب بتلازمة دينار ويغط للفقراء؟» قال هذا ليس لأنه كان يبالي بالفقراء، بل لأنه كان سارقاً، وكان الصدوق عنده، وكان يخمل ما يلقي فيه. فقال يسوع: «اتركوها! إنها ليوم تكفيين قد حفظته، لأن الفقراء معكم في كل حين، وأما أنا فليست معكم في كل حين». فعلم جمع كثير من اليهود أنه هناك، فجاءوا ليس لأجل يسوع فقط بل لينظروا أيضاً لعازر الذي أقامه من الأموات. فتشاور رؤساء الكهنة ليقتلوا لعازر أيضاً، لأن كثيرين من اليهود كانوا يستببه يذهبون ويؤمنون بيسوع. وفي الغد سمع الجمع الكثير الذي جاء إلى العيد أن يسوع أت إلى اورشليم، فأخذوا سعوف النخل وخرجوا للقاءه، وكانوا يصرخون: «أوصنا! مبارك الآتي باسم الرب! ملك إسرائيل!» ووجد يسوع جحشاً فجلس عليه كما هو مكتوب: «لا تخافي يا ابنة صهيون. هوذا ملكك يأتي جالساً على جحش أتان». وهذه الأمور لم يفهمها تلاميذه أولاً، ولكن لما تمدد يسوع، حينئذ تذكروا أن هذه كانت مكتوبة عنه، وأنهم صنعوا هذه له. وكان الجمع الذي معه يشهد أنه دعا لعازر من القبر وأقامه من الأموات. لهذا أيضاً لأفاه الجمع، لأنهم سمعوا أنه كان قد صنع هذه الآية.

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عموماً المشاركة فيه لذوي العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقترنة على أعضاء الكنائس الأرثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتزاز 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.

Pastoral Message

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor
Palm Sunday - April 5, 2026

Our celebration on Palm Sunday actually begins with the miracle of Christ raising of Lazarus from the dead that we celebrate this year on Saturday, April 4. The Gospel lesson of “Lazarus Saturday” prepares us for the glorious entry of Christ into the City of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (April 5). Similarly, our celebration of Easter begins with Great and Holy Friday. However, the service that is often well attended on Holy Friday is not “the end of the story.” Just as the joy of Palm Sunday begins with the raising of Lazarus from the dead, so it is with Christ’s Holy Resurrection. We begin on Great and Holy Friday with the sadness of what seems a great tragedy, but our worship concludes with the triumphant victory of Christ’s glorious Resurrection. Joy is experienced in overcoming suffering. And there is no resurrection without death.

During Great and Holy Week, the Divine Grace of God and His merciful forgiveness is showered upon us on Holy Wednesday with the Sacrament of Holy Unction for the healing of soul and body. The twelve Gospel lessons of Holy Week on Thursday, begins with the Lord demonstrating for us what being a servant means with His washing the feet of the disciples. This occurs just before He offers Himself to us as the bread and wine at The Last Supper, when He said, "His Body ... and this is my Blood..., for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:26-28). Thus, we see how each of our services of Holy Week are a part of a whole and complete message. Everyone who began gathering the little town of Bethany, the home of Lazarus, and began crowding the streets as Jesus made His way to the City of Jerusalem; bringing palms and branches of olives shouted "Hosanna!" while waving them. It is a word that means; "Save us, I pray, save now!" There was a desperation in the cry from their hearts on that day. They were in great need for a deliverer; a Savior. This exclamation is like the petition we often hear within our Liturgy over and over again: Help us! Save us! Have mercy on us! And keep us, O God, by Thy grace! The shouts of "Hosanna" from the people in Jesus' day continued with the phrase: "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" They were anticipating the coming of the Messiah (The "Anointed One"). They had hope in finding Him. However, the full context of the prophesies of the Covenant (Old Testament) were not yet fully realized: This all took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet [Zechariah 9:9]: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" And who would think of a King arriving on a donkey? Who ever thought that this King would've been born in a cave amidst animals? Who would've imagined this King washing the feet of His Disciples? "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!" It is also your and my exclamation. It begins with "Hosanna" (a cry for help, to be saved - you and me today!), but it continues with the acknowledgment that He has come, that He is present, and that He is to come! We can be certain of His love. We can be certain of His presence. It is a steadfast and unconditional love - unlike any other. He promised to never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 3:5). So for you and I who have been baptized and illumined, we shout for joy: "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:1-9).

Our parents, grandparents, and even our godparents have paved the way with great sacrifices. We are who we are, because of who they were. Their prayers for us continue! Our salvation is just as important as it was to them. It is most important to God! Be sure that it is also important to you and your children. There is no better time to be connected than during Holy Week when we together revisit: the full and complete message of the Gospel. Holy Week is only beginning... it's not too late! Plan time to be present with us. God wants us to be connected. He so desired a connection to us that He was born of human flesh! He desired to be so connected to us that He not only became one of us, He accepted becoming a mockery, bearing all of our sins, in order to save us. He accepted becoming a curse; was even spat upon. Why? Because no one else could turn the tables on evil. It is only He Who Is The Author of life: He who is Truth; He who is also the Way (John 14:6). It was only He that could bring us the peace we yearn to have; to fill us with the joy we long to feel; to heal the pain and uncertainty.

You and I must find our connection with God! You and I must also remain connected to Him! If the life of your family is important; if the survival of your relationships are valuable; if they are needing to be meaningful, then being connected to the Church (The Body of Christ) is being in the right place, especially on Holy Week. We are united with Him and each other because there was someone who prayed for you; and who may still be praying for you! May the journey we make together to the Cross that ends at the empty tomb bring us unspeakable joy in the full knowledge of all that God has done for us through Christ Jesus, our Lord and King! May His Light so shine on us in the end, not only as a symbol, but with the full reality that He has granted us the forgiveness of sins and has reconciled us with Himself and with each other.