

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 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost and the Twelfth Sunday of Matthew

Leave-taking of the Holy Dormition of the Theotokos

Martyr Lupus, Servant of the Great Martyr Demetrios; Hieromartyr Irenaios,
Bishop of Lyon; Venerable Nicholas and Dionysios of Olympus

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Tone 3; Eothinon 1

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion for the Holy Dormition (Tone 1)

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for living thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

Apolytikion for 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 for the Holy Dormition (Tone 2)

Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions, and whose prayers are never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control. But since she is the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb did translate her to life.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost)

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises.
Clap your hands, all ye nations.*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (15:1-11)

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the Gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, unfit to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God, which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

THE GOSPEL (for the Twelfth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew (19:16-26)

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, “Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” And He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to Him, “All these I have observed; what do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard

this they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

The Synaxarion

On August 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Martyr Lupus.

Verses

Lupus was a servant, but the sword's manumission
Sent him unto Christ as a friend and a freeman.
On the twenty-third the sword's edge Lupus slew.

He was the servant of the Great-Martyr Demetrios. When Demetrios was beheaded by the Emperor Maximian, Lupus dipped the hem of his garment and his ring in the martyr's blood. Lupus worked many miracles and healings in Thessalonica with this garment and ring. The Emperor Maximian discovered this, and commanded that Lupus be tortured and killed. But the soldiers who drew their weapons on Lupus turned one on the other and wounded one another. Lupus prayed to God that He would somehow bring about his baptism before his death. On this, water suddenly poured down on the holy martyr from a cloud, and he thus received baptism. After harsh torture, Lupus was beheaded and entered into the heavenly Kingdom.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Irenaios, bishop of Lyons. The Holy Hieromartyr Irenaeus was born in Asia Minor about the year 120, and in his youth was a disciple of Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. Saint Irenaeus was sent to Lyons in Gaul, to be a fellow labourer of Pothinus, Bishop of Lyons (celebrated June 2), who had also been a disciple of Saint Polycarp. After the martyrdom of Saint Pothinus, Saint Irenaeus succeeded him as Bishop of Lyons. Besides the assaults of paganism, Irenaeus found himself compelled to do battle with many Gnostic heresies, against which he wrote his greatest work, *A Refutation and Overthrow of Knowledge Falsely So Called*. He was also a peace-maker within the Church. When Victor, Bishop of Rome, was prepared to excommunicate the Christians of Asia Minor for following a different tradition celebrating Pascha, Irenaeus persuaded him to moderate his zeal, and mediated peace. He made Lyons an illustrious bastion of Orthodoxy and a school of piety, and sealed his confession

with martyrdom about the year 202, during the reign of Septimius Severus.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Nicholas and Dionysios of Olympus. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Wednesdays and Fridays are observed as days of fasting in the Orthodox Church.]

Beheading of the Honorable Forerunner and Baptist John

Saturday, August 29

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

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost and The Thirteenth Sunday of Matthew

Saturday, August 29th, Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Sunday, August 30th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year - September 1st

The Feast of The Nativity of the Theotokos

Tuesday, September 8 — Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered by the Skaff-Tortolano family in cherished memory of all our loved ones departed this earthly life. With gratitude, beseeching God's infinite blessings upon the Skaff, DeSousa, Namay, Ortega, Jurado, Placencia, Barahona, Enriquez, Caserta, and Tortolano families.

The coffee hour being hosted this morning by Nathan Irenaus Afshin, celebrating his birthday and his patronal Feast Day. May God grant him many years!

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

for the continued health of Kristy Maloof.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, Anne Petach.
Memory eternal.

for George Bchara, celebrating his birthday today.
May God grant him many years!

by Charmaine Darmour for the good health of Robert Andrews, Sr.
for the good health of Nicholas Tambouras.

ANNOUEMENTS

Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday, August 25

Our weekly Bible Study will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, August 25. For links to the past recorded links, contact Father Timothy at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org The recent Bible Studies were on of the scriptural passages that is the basis of the practice of *nepsis* ("vigilance"); in acquiring the grace of the Holy Spirit. We have begun reading volume 3 of Bishop EMILIANOS' book, Walking on the Waves, an Everyday Guide to Nepsis. Volumes 1-3 is on sale in our bookstore.

Participate in Hosting the Sunday Coffee Hours

After participating in Divine Liturgy and partaking of the Eucharist, we break our morning fast with a light meal to refresh our bodies and fellowship with our church community. A light meal is sufficient to sustain us, keeping the focus on fellowship rather than extravagance. Coffee Hours are not intended to provide a full lunch, except when hosts choose to celebrate special events.

Please note that depending on the time of year, we observe specific fasting periods (Great Lent, Apostles Fast, Dormition Fast, and Nativity Fast) when we abstain from certain foods while practicing almsgiving and prayer. Guidelines will be posted ahead of each fasting cycle. Conversely, feast days are times of great cheer, and we encourage a larger spread with more options available.

For more information and to sign-up, please contact David Rodriguez at: drodpena@gmail.com, phone or text him at: 818-484-6157. You may also use the following link to sign-up: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mxM3fqVBo0OQQPuFeJdpBEpqK7O0mGEtwDNhQPIQ3L4/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

NOTE: The Coffee Hour is not a fundraiser. Hosts provide hospitality to encourage fellowship following the Liturgy. Anyone may offer to support our expenses by logging on to: <https://www.stmichaelvannuys.org/donate> and earmarking your contribution towards the Coffee Hour.

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.	
Holy Bread Offering List	Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar
Aug 30 - the Sadd family	Reserved
Sep 06 - open	open
Sep 13 - open	open
Sep 14 (Exhalation of the Holy Cross) - open	(no coffee hour)
Sep 20 - open	open
Please contact Father Timothy (818/219-3761; frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and David Rodriguez (drodpena@gmail.com) host the Coffee Hour.	

Support Our Parish Every Time You Shop

If you shop at **Ralphs** or **Food 4 Less**, you can support **St. Michael Church** at **no extra cost** by enrolling in the **Community Rewards Program**.

Together, we earned \$689.00 in 2025. Let's see how much more we can raise this year—just by doing our regular grocery shopping!

Already enrolled? Please take a moment to make sure **St. Michael Orthodox Church** is still selected as your Community Rewards organization.

Please read through the next page that provides you with instructions.

Questions or need help enrolling? Please see Cindy Tamoush, 818-917-4847 or cindy.tamoush@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting our parish!



Also available at
Food 4 Less.
(A Kroger Affiliate)

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Every Purchase
Makes a Difference!

Link your Ralphs or Food 4 Less Rewards Card
to supporting St. Michael Orthodox Church and help
our church earn rewards every time you shop—

at no extra cost to you!



TOGETHER, WE EARNED
\$689.00



IN 2025 FOR ST. MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH!

*Let's see how much more we can raise this year—
just by doing our regular grocery shopping!*



IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!



1

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Go to
Ralphs.com or Food4Less.com

Sign in to your Rewards
account (or create one).

2

**ACCESS COMMUNITY
REWARDS**



Click the
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icon.

Select
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Choose
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Verify **St. Michael Orthodox Church**
is selected, or change your
organization.

3

SHOP & SUPPORT



Use your Rewards Card
every time you shop.

SCAN HERE

to visit Ralphs.com
and get started!



You're all set!

Every eligible purchase helps support
St. Michael Orthodox Church—
at no extra cost to you!



Thank you for supporting our parish!





St. Michael Ladies

Fall Fellowship Brunch

Saturday, October 3rd – 10:30am

**An opportunity to get together
as Sisters in Christ! A time to get
to know one another better.**

RSVP to Charmaine at

714-287-1266 or

cdarmour65@gmail.com

**This is a potluck & we ask you to
please bring a dish to share &
include what it is with your RSVP**

**LET'S GATHER TO PRAY, BREAK BREAD
AND LAUGH TOGETHER!**





ST. MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1ST ANNUAL

Multicultural Festival

• FAITH-FAMILY-COMMUNITY •

NOVEMBER 8th 2026

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HOURS OF OPERATION: 11:30 A.M.-9:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME; BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS!



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ADULTS- \$5
KIDS UNDER 10- FREE

RAFFLE DRAWING
ON NOVEMBER 8TH,
2026 AT 9PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FESTIVAL
COORDINATOR: (818)-383-9557 OR RMADAIN@HOTMAIL.COM



St. Michael Feast Day Multi-Cultural Festival
Sunday, November 8, 2026; 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Michael,

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who has reached out to help with our upcoming Fall Festival. Our committee members have received so many questions about specific sponsorship and donation opportunities so we wanted to share exactly what we still need to make the event a success.

Whether you are able to provide a full or partial donation, please know that every contribution is deeply appreciated. Here's how you can help:

Make checks payable to St. Michael Orthodox Church, earmarked: "Fall Festival"

All proceeds from our Festival will fund our church maintenance projects and immediate church needs.

Please let a committee member know about your contribution. We want to make sure we properly recognize you, your family, or your company. We want to thank you publicly on our social media pages and on our Festival signage to show our deep gratitude for your continued support and commitment to our church.

The following items are needed for the Festival. We appreciate your donations either in full or in part:

Stage, Sound System, DJ: \$2,800
Singers and Musicians: \$3,200
Equipment Rental: \$3,500
Kids Jumpers and Games: \$1,800
Food and Beverages: \$1,500
Permits, Parking, Security: \$1,200

Volunteer T-shirts: \$750
Cleaning and Housekeeping: \$1,000
Raffle Grand Prize: \$5,000
Additional Raffle Prizes -
(3 needed at minimum value: \$250
of \$250 each)

May God bless you and your family!

The Festival Planning Committee

Rami Madain, Coordinator: rmadain@hotmail.com
(818) 383-9557



St. Nicholas
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

SAVE THE DATE

ST. NICHOLAS

FESTIVAL



OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2026



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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=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWNoYWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmcj>

First Sunday of Church School - September 20th

Ladies Fellowship Brunch - Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon; RSVP to Charmaine Darmour at: 714-287-1266

St. Nicholas Cathedral Festival - Saturday, Sunday, October 17-18, 2026
Saturday, 3-11 p.m., Sunday, 12 noon to 10 p.m.

Diocesan Fall Gathering - Friday-Sunday, October 23-25, 2026
Hosted by St. Michael Church (Whittier, California); Register at:
<https://stmichaelwhittier.org/fall-gathering-2026-registration/>

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, September 26, 8 a.m.
Nat's Early Bite (14115 Burbank Blvd. Sherman Oaks CA 91401)

St. Michael Feast Day and Multi-Cultural Festival - Sunday, November 8
Church School Christmas Program - Sunday, December 13

PASTORAL SERMON **The Twelfth Sunday of Matthew** **By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig** **August 23, 2026**

The rich young man in today's Gospel sounds like someone who asks a question seeming to know the answer. He is like the student who proudly plays innocent and asks a question of his teacher to be gratified by having known the answer; or did he?

While the young man in the Gospel at first sounds as though his intention is spiritual, he views eternal life as something that is earned or as that which he

himself can acquire. I good translation of verse 16 reads in his question the word: *Teacher, what good thing must I do to **get** eternal life?*

St. Matthew's account seems to demonstrate that the proud young man wanted Jesus to acknowledge his righteousness. "Keeping the Law" (commandments) is something that he is very proud of accomplishing. And while the fact is that no one of us has perfectly kept God's laws, the young man is very confident and self righteous.

The man in today's Gospel is also called a "young man" (verse 16). The Pharisees, in Jesus' day believed that God rewarded good people with wealth. It was with this in mind that our Lord was very emphatic in saying: it is hard [very difficult] for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

The young man was driven by his materialism not unlike many in today's world who are well trained to aim for profits and material gains. **However, it must be said that being successful or wealthy is not in and of itself a sin.** There were many saints who were rich people, i.e., St. Helen, St. Elizabeth. **However having wealth can be sinful if the means of one's acquiring wealth is unholy, such as by stealing or extortion. It can also be sinful if what one does with his wealth is unholy.** And on this subject, St. John Chrysostom has had much to say. I would recommend for your library the book "On Wealth and Poverty" by St. John.

In a few weeks we will hear the challenge to "take up our cross." It is part of the Gospel of The Sunday before the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. This challenge is heard in St. Matthew's Gospel and precedes the verses which read: What good (profit) will it be for a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. As we hear in the Liturgy of St. Basil who quotes verse 12 of chapter 20 in the book of Revelation: *...and He shall come again to render unto every man according to his works...*

"Eternal life" is something we often think of as reserved for the righteous. And our human experience in this life, especially if it is filled with struggles and

difficulties, can cause some of us to think of an eternal existence as exhausting. We have a sign in our office that says: “God put me on earth to accomplish a number of things. Right now I am so far behind I will never die.”

Having had no experience of what life after death is like does cause our imagination to run wild. On the other hand, many of us prefer to think only in terms of our life here and now – thinking only in terms of what we know are sure and certain of.

The Gospel teaches that eternal life is a gift to every living person: both to the righteous and the unrighteous. We hear it clearly stated in the lesson of the Funeral Service of our church:

...for the time is coming when all the dead in the graves will hear His voice, and they will come forth: Those who have done good deeds to a resurrection of life, and those who have done evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. I can do nothing on my own authority; as I hear I judge and my judgment is just; because I do not seek my own will, but the will of the Father who sent me. (John 5: 24-30)

Now a simple reading of this passage can cause you and I to think that our reward is based upon doing good with the material goods that we have. Well, “doing good” pertains not only to the use of our material possessions. It includes how we spend our time such in helping others. It may also involve speaking the truth in love to someone, or remaining silent when what we want to say may in fact be hurtful.

Very often we may also think of “doing good” in terms of writing a check or giving something away. But what many of us must begin doing is to remain actively engaged with others, especially those who are dear to us. If you have difficulty with any of this, always remember: Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Yes, our treasure includes our time and energy; our thoughts and our prayers. Because for many us “time means money,” we could even consider how where we spend our time can be certainly where our heart is also.

We have much more to offer others than just providing a hand-out. Many people need us, our presence, our words of encouragement, and our time.

Children need the time of their parents. The elderly need the time of their children. The married, need the time of their spouses. The single person needs to spend time with God. Today it is very easy to be detached from others. While in fact, being “distant” was not something that began with the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic. People have been distancing themselves for a long time. However, the Gospel message repeatedly speaks of our becoming “detached from the world”.

[St. John Climacus] *Avarice [the “love of money”] is said to be the root of all evil (I Tim. 6:10), and it is so because it causes hatred, theft, envy, separations, hostility, stormy blasts, remembrance of past wrongs, inhuman acts and even murder. A fire can burn down an entire forest. But one virtue can help many to escape all the vices mentioned above.*

If someone has hated [forsaken/abandoned] the world, he has run away from its misery; but if he has an attachment to visible things, then he is not yet cleansed of grief. For how can he avoid grief when he is deprived of something he loves?

It takes time for many to reconsider the value of the relationships in our family, the relationships of friends, our need for those relationships, and to appreciate all who have contributed in the formation who we are. The older we get, the more we need to know and understand those who have been a part of our life – those who loved us and contributed much to helping us succeed in life.

I do not know if there was a time that you ever considered yourself “poor.” Being poor can be very relative in our day. However, we should not neglect or ignore the fact that there are those who need us and who God commands us to care for. Some of these persons may even be closer to us than we may realize.

Prayer

O Lord our God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, you have not asked us to sell all that we have and to give to the poor that we may acquire the Kingdom. All that we have are truly yours. We acknowledge our complete dependence upon you, our Source, and accept responsibility for our deeds both good and bad. Grant us the forgiveness of sins and renew in us the desire to do

your will, for blessed art Thou, O Christ, our God, who together with the unoriginate Father and Spirit art Holy, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

EOTHINON 1

الاويثينا 1

TONE 3

اللعن 3

**THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AND THE TWELFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

Leave-taking of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Martyr Lupus, Servant of the Great Martyr Demetrios; Hieromartyr Irenaios, Bishop of Lyon;
Venerable Nicholas and Dionysios of Olympos

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثالث
لتفرح السماويات وتبتهج الارضيات, لانَّ الربَّ صنعَ عزّاً بـساعده, ووطئ الموتَ بالموت, وصارَ بكرَ
الاموات, وأنقذنا من جوفِ الجحيم, ومنح العالمَ الرحمةَ العظمى

أبوليتيكيون رُقَادِ وَالِدَةِ الإِلَهِ بِاللَّحْنِ الْأَوَّلِ
فِي مِيلَادِكَ حَفِظْتَ الْبَتُولِيَّةَ وَصُنِّتِهَا، وَفِي رُقَادِكَ مَا أَهْمَلْتَ الْعَالَمَ وَتَرَكْتَهُ يَا وَالِدَةَ الإِلَهِ، لَأَنَّكَ
انْتَقَلْتَ إِلَى الْحَيَاةِ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ أُمُّ الْحَيَاةِ. فَبِشَفَاعَتِكَ، أَنْقِذِي مِنَ الْمَوْتِ نَفُوسَنَا.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللعن الرابع
أَيُّهَا الْمَتَقَدِّمُونَ عَلَى الْأَجْنَادِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكُمْ نَحْنُ غَيْرِ الْمُسْتَحَقِّينَ، حَتَّى أَنْكُمْ بَطْلِبَاتِكُمْ
تَكْتَنُفُونَنَا بِظُلِّ أَجْنَحَةِ مَجْدِكُمْ غَيْرِ الْهَيُولِيِّ، حَافِظِينَ إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِثِينَ وَالصَّارِخِينَ بِغَيْرِ فَتُورٍ،
أَنْقِذُونَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ، بِمَا أَنْكُمْ رُؤَسَاءُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

قنداق رُقَادِ وَالِدَةِ الإِلَهِ بِاللَّحْنِ الثَّانِي
أُمُّ الإِلَهِ الْقَوِيَّةُ فِي الشَّفَاعَةِ، وَالْعَوْنُ الَّذِي لَا يَخِيبُ فِي الْحِمَايَةِ، لَمْ تُضْبَطْ فِي قَبْرِ وَلَا فِي مَوْتٍ،
بَلْ كَأَنَّ الْحَيَاةَ نَقَلَهَا إِلَى الْحَيَاةِ إِبْنُهَا الَّذِي حَلَّ فِي حَشَاهَا الدَّائِمِ الْبَتُولِيَّةِ.

الرسالة

رَتِّلُوا لِإِلَهِنَا رَتِّلُوا
يَا جَمِيعَ الْأُمَمِ صَفِّقُوا بِالْأَيْدِي

فصلٌ مِنْ رسالةِ القديسِ بولسِ الرسولِ الأولى إلى أهلِ كورنثوس (11:1-15)

يا إخوة، أَعَرَفَكُمُ بِالْإِنْجِيلِ الَّذِي بَشَّرْتُكُمُ بِهِ وَقَبِلْتُمُوهُ وَأَنْتُمْ قَائِمُونَ فِيهِ * وَبِهِ أَيْضاً تَخْلُصُونَ بِأَيِّ كَلَامٍ بَشَّرْتُكُمُ بِهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَذْكُرُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونُوا قَدْ آمَنْتُمْ بَاطِلاً * فَإِنِّي قَدْ سَلَّمْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ أَوَّلًا مَا تَسَلَّمْتُهُ أَنْ الْمَسِيحَ مَاتَ مِنْ أَجْلِ خَطَايَانَا عَلَى مَا فِي الْكِتَابِ * وَأَنَّهُ قُبِرَ وَأَنَّهُ قَدْ قَامَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ عَلَى مَا فِي الْكِتَابِ * وَأَنَّهُ تَرَأَى لَصَفًا ثُمَّ الْإِثْنَى عَشَرَ * ثُمَّ تَرَأَى لِأَكْثَرٍ مِنْ خَمْسٍ مِئَةِ أَخٍ دُفَعَةً وَاحِدَةً، أَكْثَرُهُمْ بَاقٍ إِلَى الْآنَ، وَبَعْضُهُمْ قَدْ رَقَدُوا * ثُمَّ تَرَأَى لِيَعْقُوبَ، ثُمَّ لِجَمِيعِ الرُّسُلِ * وَأَخِرَ الْكُلِّ تَرَأَى لِي أَنَا أَيْضاً كَأَنَّهُ لِلسَّقَطِ * لِأَنِّي أَنَا أَصْغَرُ الرُّسُلِ، وَلَسْتُ أَهْلًا لِأَنْ أُسَمَّى رَسُولًا، لِأَنِّي اضْطَهَدْتُ كَنِيسَةَ اللَّهِ * وَلَكِنْ بِنِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ أَنَا مَا أَنَا. وَنِعْمَتُهُ الْمُعْطَاةُ لِي لَمْ تَكُنْ بَاطِلَةً بَلْ تَعِبْتُ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ جَمِيعِهِمْ. وَلَكِنْ لَا أَنَا بَلْ نِعْمَةُ اللَّهِ الَّتِي مَعِيَ * فَسَوَاءٌ كُنْتُ أَنَا أَمْ أَوْلَيْكَ هَذَا نَكْرُزُ وَهَذَا آمَنْتُمْ.

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطاهر (16:19-26)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَنَا إِلَى يَسُوعَ شَابٌّ وَجَبَّ لَهُ قَائِلًا: أَيُّهَا الْمُعَلِّمُ الصَّالِحُ، مَاذَا أَعْمَلُ مِنَ الصَّالِحِ لِتَكُونَ لِي الْحَيَاةَ الْأَبَدِيَّةَ؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: لِمَاذَا تَدْعُونِي صَالِحًا؟ وَمَا صَالِحُ إِلَّا وَاحِدٌ وَهُوَ اللَّهُ. وَلَكِنْ إِنْ كُنْتَ تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَدْخُلَ الْحَيَاةَ، فَاحْفَظِ الْوَصَايَا * فَقَالَ لَهُ: آيَةُ وَصَايَا؟ قَالَ يَسُوعُ: لَا تَقْتُلْ، لَا تَزْنِ، لَا تَسْرِقْ، لَا تَشْهَدْ بِالزُّورِ * أَكْرِمِ أَبَاكَ وَأُمَّكَ، أَحِبِّ قَرِيبَكَ كَنَفْسِكَ * قَالَ لَهُ الشَّابُّ: كُلُّ هَذَا قَدْ حَفَظْتُهُ مُنْذُ صِبَايَ، فَمَاذَا يَنْقُصُنِي بَعْدُ؟ قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: إِنْ كُنْتَ تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَكُونَ كَامِلًا، فَادْهَبْ وَبِعْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ لَكَ وَأَعْطِهِ لِلْمَسَاكِينِ، فَيَكُونَ لَكَ كَنْزٌ فِي السَّمَاءِ. وَتَعَالَ اتَّبِعْنِي * فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الشَّابُّ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ، مَضَى حَزِينًا لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ ذَا مَالٍ كَثِيرٍ * فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ: الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ يَعْسُرُ عَلَى الْغَنِيِّ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ مَلَكُوتَ السَّمَاوَاتِ * وَأَيْضًا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنْ مُرِرَ الْجَمَلُ مِنْ ثَقْبِ الْإِبْرَةِ لِأَسْهَلِ مِنْ دُخُولِ غَنِيِّ مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ * فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ تَلَامِيذُهُ بُهْتُوا جِدًّا وَقَالُوا "مَنْ يَسْتَطِيعُ إِذَنْ أَنْ يَخْلُصَ؟" * فَنَظَرَ يَسُوعُ إِلَيْهِمْ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: أَمَّا عِنْدَ النَّاسِ فَلَا يُسْتَطَاعُ هَذَا، وَأَمَّا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ فَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُسْتَطَاعٌ.