



ST. ATHANASIUS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

300 Sumida Gardens Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
Office hours: Tues-Fri.
12:00—5:00 p.m.

Senior Pastor:

Fr. Nicholas Speier
805-685-5495
frnicholas@stathanasius.org

Assistant Pastors:

Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges 805-968-1903
Fr. John Carrillo 805-968-2448
Fr. Jon Braun, Attached Priest (retired)
Fr. John Finley, Attached Priest

Deacons:

Dn. Gary Braun
Dn. Scott Jacobs
Dn. Richard Easbey
Dn. John Young

Music Director/Administrator:

Valerie Yova
Office phone: 805-685-5400
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Parish Council:

Douglas Meyer, President
Dan Braun, Treasurer
Katie AbuGhazaleh, Secretary
Richard Barre
Catherine Braun
Dottie Genatone
Benjamin Hedges
Karen Jacobs
Dr. Jon King

LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, December 27, 2015

Proto-martyr Stephen the Archdeacon & Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King, and
James the brother of the Lord



WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

*We are glad you are with us this morning.
If you are not Orthodox, we invite you to
partake of the blessed bread during
Communion and to join us at Coffee Hour ~
we'd love to meet you!*

Calendar for this Week

Sunday, December 27—ST. STEPHEN

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

9:00 a.m. Matins
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:45 a.m. POTLUCK
1:00 p.m. Blessing of graves at Goleta Cemetery
2-5 p.m. Teen Dance in Buellton

Monday, December 28

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins
NO OUTREACH DINNER IN ISLA VISTA

Tuesday, December 29

3:30 p.m. Catechesis Level I
5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

Wednesday, December 30

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins
11:00 a.m. Shower Truck Ministry

Thursday, December 31

12:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Group
6:00 p.m. Vespers Liturgy for St. Basil
and Circumcision of the Lord

Friday, January 1—HAPPY NEW YEAR!

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins

Saturday, January 2

NO ADULT CATECHISM

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers/Confessions

Sunday, January 3

9:00 a.m. Matins
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour

Sunday Morning Ministries Schedule

Eucharist Bread

December 27 Kern
January 3 Dillon
January 10 Thomas
January 17 Washburn

Coffee Hour

December 27 POTLUCK
January 3 NEED A HOST
January 10 POTLUCK
January 17

Greeters

December 27 K. & L. Jacobs
January 3 P. King, L. Baker
January 10 G. Shannon, K. King
January 17 P. Morrison, D. Genatone

Ushers

December 27 G. Shannon S. Speier, P. Brunner
January 3 P. King, D. Meyer, R. Barre
January 10 D. Lewis, C. Speier, J. King
January 17 D. Washburn, G. Shannon,
S. Speier

Readers

December 24 R. Barre
December 27 P. Braun
December 31 V. Gish
January 3 T. Harris
January 5 M. Kern (Royal Hours)
January 5 H. Lange (Vesp-Liturgy)
January 10 D. Meyer
January 16 D. Alexander (Vespers)
January 17 D. Washburn

AT THE END OF THE MATINS SERVICE, WE SING THE GREAT DOXOLOGY.
 (“Glory to You, Who have shown us the light...”) followed by the Matins Dismissal
Troparion. Complete text is in front of Liturgy book.

**THE DIVINE LITURGY
OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE GREAT LITANY

First Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (*Ps. 111*)

Verse: I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all
Thy wonders known. In the company of the upright, in the congregation,
great are the works of the Lord!

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse: They are sought out according to His will. Full of honor and majesty is His
work, and His righteousness endures forever. **[Refrain]**

Verse: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and
ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **[Refrain]**

Second Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (*Ps. 112*)

Verse: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His
commandments. His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of
the upright will be blessed.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Verse: Glory and wealth are in his house and his righteousness endures forever.
[Refrain]

Verse: Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful,
compassionate and righteous. **[Refrain]**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Only begotten Son and immortal Word of God, who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, who without change didst become man and was crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us.

Third Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (*Ps. 110*)

Chanter: The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.”

All:

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore Thee,
the Sun of righteousness,
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to Thee!

Chanter: The Lord will send Thee the scepter of power from Zion: “Rule in the midst of Thine enemies.”

People: **Thy nativity, O Christ our God...**

Chanter: With Thee is dominion on the day of Thy birth, in the radiance of holiness.

People: **Thy nativity, O Christ our God...**

At the Little Entrance with the Gospel we sing the following hymns for the day:

Troparion of the Resurrection

(Music on p. 47-48 of Liturgy book)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born of the Virgin for our salvation.

For He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh
to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Tone 5 Byzantine melody
harmonized by Fr. J. Finley

Troparion of the Nativity of Christ**Tone 4**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
hath given rise to the Light of knowledge in the world,
for they who did worship the stars
did learn from them to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice,
and to know that Thou didst come from the east of the Highest.
Glory to Thee O Lord!

Troparion for Sunday after Nativity of Christ**Tone 2**

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancesor of God;
you saw a Virgin great with child;
you gave glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi;
you received the news from the Angel.
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Troparion for St. Stephen the Protomartyr and Archdeacon**Tone 4**

Protomartyr and mighty warrior of Christ our God,
You were victorious in battle and crowned with glory, holy Stephen.
You confounded the council of those who persecuted you,
Beholding your Savior enthroned at the Father's right hand.
Never cease praying that our souls may be saved!

Troparion to St. Athanasius (Music on p. 54 of Liturgy Book)**Tone 3**

Holy Bishop Athanasius,
you became a stronghold of Orthodoxy,
strengthening the Church through your divine teachings.
Opposing the heretical opinion of Arius,
you explained and taught that the Son is equal in nature with the Father.
O holy Father, intercede with Christ God
that He may grant us abundant mercy.

Kontakion for the Nativity of Christ**Tone 8**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
The wise men journey with the star,
since for our sakes the eternal God is born as a little child!

TRISAGION (THRICE-HOLY) HYMN (p. 9 of Liturgy book)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

+Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Deacon: With strength! People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Prokeimenon—Preparatory Psalm Verses before the Epistle

Tone 4

God is wonderful in His Saints, the God of Israel.

Verse: In the churches bless ye God the Lord, from the
Fountains of Israel.

EPISTLE READING

Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60

In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. The high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is My throne, and earth My footstool. What house will you build for Me', says the Lord, 'or what is the place of My rest? Did not My hand make all these things?' You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, Whom

you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they grinded their teeth against him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Alleluia Refrain and Psalm verses before the Gospel

Tone 5

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Verse: I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth;
I will make known Thy faithfulness to all generations. (Ps 88/89:1)

Verse: For Thou hast said: “Mercy shall be built up forever;
In the heavens shall Thy truth be established.” (Ps 88/89:2)

Gospel Reading—Matthew 2:13-23

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent forth and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more."

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

LITURGY OF THE FAITHFUL

Meglynarion for the Feast of the Nativity—Hymn to the Mother of God

O my soul, magnify her who is more hon' rable and who is more glorious than the heav' nly host.

A mystery I behold which is strange and wondrous, the cave is heav' n, and the virgin is the throne of the Cherubim, in the confines of the manger is laid the infinite, Christ our god, whom we praise and magnify.

Communion of the Clergy (Liturgy Book page 32)

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)

The Lord has sent redemption to His people, Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

You can access a complete calendar of services and other parish activities on our website: www.stathanasius.org.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

TODAY, December 27 at 1 p.m.—at Goleta Cemetery with prayers and caroling

TICKETS ARE ON SALE TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY DURING COFFEE HOUR for the concert on Friday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. Madeleine Meyer and John Butler will perform. Proceeds benefit the church Building Fund. Tickets are \$20. No children under 13, please.

ST. BASIL/NEW YEAR

Thursday, December 31

6:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy for St. Basil the Great - NO NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

EPIPHANY CELEBRATIONS

Tuesday, January 5 7:00 a.m.

Royal Hours of Epiphany

Tuesday, January 5 6:00 p.m.

Vesperal Liturgy and Blessing of Water

Sunday, January 10

POTLUCK AFTER LITURGY

Outdoor Blessing of the Water at 1:00 p.m.

Santa Barbara Harbor

Consider inviting your friends and relatives to join us this year at the harbor! **PLEASE LET FR NICHOLAS KNOW IF YOU OR ONE OF YOUR CHILDREN WILL BE DIVING FOR THE CROSS. ST. BARBARA'S PARISH WILL BE HAVING HOODED SWEAT-SHIRTS MADE FOR ALL DIVERS.**

CELEBRATIONS for THIS WEEK

Birthdays

12/29 Karen Jacobs, Tyler Speier
1/1 Nikolay Nikolov
1/2 Joan Thomas

Patron Saint Commemorations

12/27 St. John the Apostle Johnny Heiduk

12/27 Protomarty Stephen Subdn. Steven Butler, Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges,
Steve Thomas

12/29 Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

St. Joseph the Betrothed Joe Ballew, Dn. Scott Jacobs

King David Gage Braun, Josh Braun, David Dillon,
David Giordani, Jon King, David Lewis,
David McCalmont, Jared Speier,
David Washburn

St. James, the Brother of Jesus Richard Barre, Jim Morrison,
Zavien Van Wagoner

1/2 St. Juliana of Lazarevo Julianna Ballew, Alyssa Simonsen,

1/2 St. Seraphim of Sorov Sierra Seraphima Butler

2016 LITURGICAL CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Liturgical wall calendars for 2016 are now available (first come-first served) free of charge in the narthex of the church. They list all major feast days, major saints and fasting days, and daily readings. They are a great reference tool for every Orthodox Christian.

**OUTDOOR GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS
for the Feast of Epiphany
Sunday, January 10, 2016**

This year we will join St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church and their new pastor, Fr. Haralambos "Bob" Fox for the Outdoor Blessing of the Waters on Sunday, January 10th. We will be meeting them at the Santa Barbara Harbor, near West Beach and the Santa Barbara Yacht Club. We will have a potluck that day for Coffee Hour, and no food will be served at the Harbor.

We are considering taking a bus down to the harbor at 12:30 p.m. that day, because parking is often difficult to find. An announcement will go out next week taking a poll to see who would be interested in riding the bus. There would be a small per person fee for all passengers.

We are just trying this out this year to see how we like it. We may end up alternating every other year between Goleta Beach and the Harbor. We'll be interested in your feedback after this year's Blessing.

* **AN EXCITING NEW MINISTRY** *
* *
* On Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. we are hosting a shower truck for *
* the homeless of our local Goleta neighborhood . The truck was purchased *
* through the efforts of Doug and Sandy Miller, friends that we met in Isla *
* Vista through St. Brigid Fellowship. The truck is in a different location al- *
* most every day of the week, and they provide the water, toiletries, towels *
* and clean clothes. We simply provide a place for them to park the truck. We *
* are also offering coffee and sandwiches for the people who use the shower, *
* and some fellowship. Asia Ballew has been coordinating the refreshments, *
* with help from Duane Franzen and Richard Barre. If you are interested in *
* helping on Wednesday mornings, please let Fr. Nicholas know or send an *
* email to the church office. office@stathanasius.org *
* *****

PRAAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests received through the parish office will be printed in the bulletin and will be prayed for during the litanies at the daily services. Prayer requests received in the box at the church will be prayed for quietly at the altar at all services. Prayer requests remain for 40 days unless requested otherwise.

Send prayer requests for the bulletin to: office@stathanasius.org.

Please pray for the health of:

Metropolitan JOSEPH
Mother Victoria
Met. Paul & Abp. John
Dn. Richard E.
Kh. Diane Carrillo
Kh. Mary Sue W.
Greg & Margaret Y.
Hoppe Family
Kh. Mary Ellen B.
Gail S.
Dean & Penny B.
Kevin & Angel S.

Mary
Susan B.
Baby Christian F.
Duane F.
Stan and Donna F.
Angel, Helen and Family
Joy
Terri-Lynn H.
Hannah Rose H.
Holly C.
Temmo K.

Paige
Galina, Nikolai & Nataliya
Nikita
Marina
Olga Marie G.
Mike, Trevor & Adam
Emily F.
Joan, Jerry, Brenda
Kevin O.
Delaney N.
Sabina S.
Steve K.

For repose of the souls of: All who have died in the conflicts in the Ukraine,
Africa & the Middle East

ABOUT OUR PRAYER LISTS:

Prayer requests in the bulletin are prayed out loud during the deacons' litanies and should be submitted to the church office—office@stathanasius.org.

Prayer requests put into the **wooden box in the narthex** will be said silently at the altar at most services. During the **Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy**, only Orthodox Christians are commemorated, and that list is comprised of the sick, those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin, and those who prepared the Eucharist bread. Others are prayed for during the Proskomedia (Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion).

ST. ATHANASIUS BOOK CENTER

The church bookstore is located in the fellowship hall. The two enclosed cabinets hold icons, books, and other items that are FOR SALE. See Terri Speier if you are looking for jewelry such as a cross or chain. Payment should be made at time of purchase and placed in the brown lock box ON THE BOOKSTORE SHELF. Make checks payable to "St. Athanasius Book Center."

All proceeds go to the parish Building Fund.

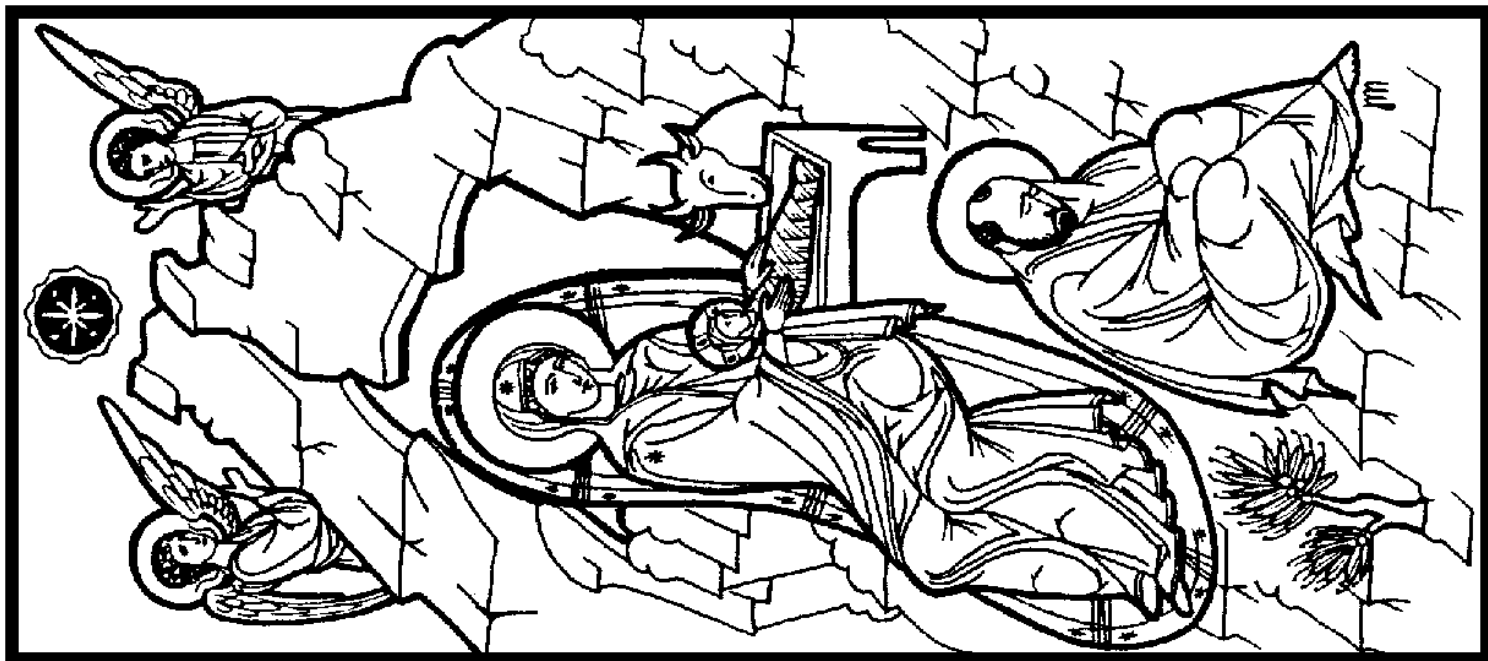
**THE MISSION AND VISION
OF**

**ST. ATHANASIUS
ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Ephesians 3:14-21)**

That we would be rooted and grounded in
FAITH, LOVE AND HUMILITY
so we might experience and manifest the
FULLNESS OF THE CHURCH

- in the WORSHIP of the Holy Trinity
- in the CARE AND GROWTH of the people
- in SERVING new members, catechumens,
inquirers and visitors
- In SHARING THE ANCIENT FAITH with our
community, the wayward and seekers
- In LOVING AND CARING FOR OUR COMMU-
NITY

**Unto the inheritance of the
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**



**FOR THE CHILDREN TO COLOR
DURING THE HOMILY OR AT HOME -**