



ST. ATHANASIUS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

300 Sumida Gardens Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Office hours: Tues-Fri. 12:00—5:00 p.m.

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA

Pastor:

Fr. Symeon Halsell

805-685-5495

frsymeon@stathanasius.org

Priests attached to the parish:

Fr. Nicholas Speier (Pastor Emeritus)

Fr. John Carrillo (retired)

Fr. Jon Braun (retired)

Fr. John Finley (Archdiocese Dept. of Missions)

Deacons:

Dn. Gary Braun

Dn. Scott Jacobs (retired)

Dn. John Young (retired)

Subdeacons: Stephen Butler & Michael Easbey

Parish Council 2025-2026

Cheryl Washburn-Lander, President

Kristin King, Vice President

Velislava Nikolov, Secretary

Dan Braun, Treasurer

Asia Ballew

Peter Braun

Sydney Hedges

Jared Speier

Music Director/Administrator:

Valerie Yova

Office phone: 805-685-5400

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Teen Program Coordinator

Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

College/Young Adult Activities Coordinators

Athanasia Ballew

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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Tone 5 / Eothinon 11;

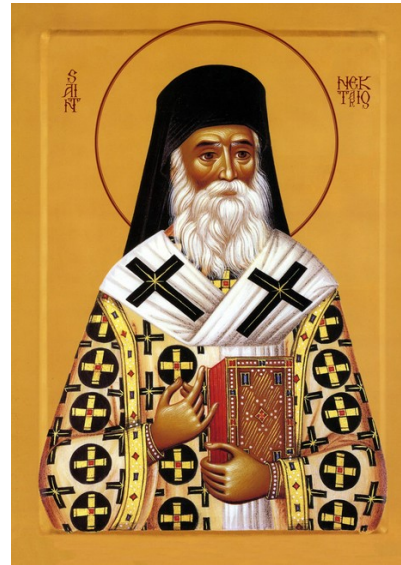
**Nektarios of Aegina and Pentapolis,
the Wonderworker**

& Seventh Sunday of Luke,

Righteous Mother Olga of Kwethluk (Alaska)

Martyrs Onesiphoros and Porphyrios of Ephesus;

Venerable Matrona of Constantinople



WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

We are glad you are with us this morning
to join our worship of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit!
Please join us on the patio after the Liturgy for
the Agape Meal. We'd love to meet you!

We welcome children of all ages in our worship.

“Let the little children come unto Me for of such is
the Kingdom of Heaven.” Luke 18:16

**At the conclusion of Matins, we sing the Great Doxology
followed by the Matins Dismissal Troparion:**

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

GREAT LITANY

FIRST ANTIPHON—Psalm verses with refrain

Vs. It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High;
To proclaim Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. [Refrain]

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

Vs. Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. [Refrain]

Vs. Glory...now & ever...Amen. [Refrain]

SECOND ANTIPHON—Psalm verses with refrain

Vs. The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength and
hath girded Himself.

**Refrain: O Son Of God Who rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee,
Alleluia!**

Vs. For He hath established the world which shall not be shaken. [Refrain]

Vs. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore. [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—The Beatitudes or “Sermon on the Mount”

In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are you when men shall revile you and shall persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil
against you falsely for my sake.
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

HYMNS SUNG AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:**Troparion of the Resurrection****Tone 5**

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.

Troparion for St. Nektarios of Aegina**Tone 1**

O faithful, let us honor Nectarius the divine servant of Christ,
offspring of Silyvria and guardian of Aegina,
who appeared in these last times as a true friend of virtue,
pouring forth all manner of healing upon those who reverently cry:
Glory to Him who gave you strength!
Glory to Him who granted you a crown!
Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!

Troparion for St. Olga of Alaska**Tone 4 (Alaskan Melody)**

God has chosen a humber mother from Alaska
to be an example for all the servants of God;
He has given us St. Olga as a helper in afflictions
and as a guide to leading a life of sacrificial love.
Therefore, we entreat you, O Holy Mother Olga:
Pray that we, your sinful children, may be saved
And rejoice with you in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Troparion to St. Athanasius**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 Presentation of the Theotokos**Tone 4**

The most pure Temple of the Savior;
the precious Chamber and Virgin;
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,
is presented today to the house of the Lord.
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,
therefore, the Angels of God praise her:
“Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

TRISAGION (THRICE-HOLY) HYMN

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.

Preparatory Psalm verses before the Epistle (Prokeimenon)**Tone 7**

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of all His saints.

Vs. What shall I render to the Lord for all that He has given me?

**EPISTLE READING (for St. Nektarios)
Ephesians 5:8-19**

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

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

Luke 8:41-56

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet, he besought Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed round Him. And a woman, who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had spent all her living upon physicians, and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him, and touched the fringe of His garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround Thee and press upon Thee! And Thou sayest, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Someone touched Me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from Me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before Him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. And Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While Jesus was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher anymore." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when Jesus came to the house, He permitted no one to enter with Him, except Peter and James and John, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but Jesus said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand Jesus called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and Jesus directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Meglynarion—Hymn to the Mother of God

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

Communion Hymns

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

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! (*Ps. 111:6*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Holy Communion

In the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Communion is offered only to Orthodox Christians who have humbly prepared to receive through prayer, fasting, and a recent Sacramental Confession.

Non-Orthodox people and those not communing today may approach during Communion for a priestly blessing by saying, "Father, bless." After this you may take a piece of anti-doron (blessed bread) offered in the bowls.

If you are interested in joining the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, speak with our Pastor about how to become an Orthodox Christian.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Wedding Anniversaries

11/10 Gary & Cheyenne Braun
11/11 Jason & Jody Wallace

Birthdays

11/9 John Ronan Meyer
11/10 David Lewis
11/13 Farley Easbey, James Morrison, Leticia Brunner
11/14 Silas Easbey, Sophia Roberts
11/15 Anna Grace Salinas

Patronal Feast Days

11.09	St. Nektarios of Aegina	Noah Hedges, Brett Eberhard
11/10	St. Olga of Alaska	Rebecca Beech
11/11	St. Victor of Damascus	Viktoria Hedges
11/13	St. John Chrysostom	Dn. John Young
11/13	St. Gregory Palamas	Greg Hammel
11/14	St. Philip the Apostle	Dn. Gary Braun, Gary Braun, Jr., Gary Braun, III

NEW ALTAR CLOTHS

Thanks be to God! You will begin seeing new blue, red, purple and white altar cloths and icon covers. One of our families was able to bring us these new covers during their pilgrimage through Romania. Our new Paschal whites and the blues for the Theotokos have beautiful embroidery designed by Fr. Athanasios in Syria, while our new reds and purples come from Putna Monastery in Romania. These were purchased in trust that the payment would be forthcoming: a beautiful expression of our Orthodox familial bond across the globe! The total cost for the new covers was \$3,000. Please consider donating toward this new blessing for our parish. Any funds collected over and above this amount will be kept for more liturgical beautifications for our communal worship. If you donate online, please designate the Pastor's Fund with a memo: "Altar Cloths." Checks can be placed in the tithe box with the same memo.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME TO LEND A HAND ON OUR CHURCH WORK DAY yesterday! Special thanks to Chris and Christie Robinson for organizing and leading the clean up.

ADULT CATECHISM

Adult Catechism classes meet from 12:45—1:15 P.M. every Sunday until the beginning of Great Lent, with a few exceptions. All are welcome, whether inquirers, catechumens, or long-time members of the parish.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to attend our Autumn Bible Study of St. Luke's Gospel and the Book of Acts. The study begins after our 5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers on Tuesdays and lasts until 7:00 p.m.

ST. INNOCENT ORPHANAGE — SANTA'S HELPERS PROJECT

This year, we will be the Santa's Helper for a sweet nine-year-old boy named Juan David. If you would like to participate, please use this link to the sign-up list.

<https://bit.ly/ProjectMexSantaHelper2025>

OLIVE CREST (HOPE REFUGE) is in need of some volunteers to help do maintenance tasks around their campus. One of those tasks is helping to build a roof over their lift station. They will have the material on site. If you are interested in helping out once a month, or on occasional projects, contact Jim Morrison.

WE WILL CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS IN THE TEMPLE on Thursday evening, November 20th. Because it is a school night, we will start a bit earlier than usual, with Vespers at 5pm and Divine Liturgy at 5:45 p.m. The Liturgy will be followed by a Lenten potluck supper. You can sign up for the potluck here:

<https://bit.ly/FestalPotluck20Nov2025>

FINANCIAL UPDATE September 30, 2025

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Budget Goal</u>
Tithes received in Sept.	\$ 47,399	56,293 (includes \$20,555 for mortgage)
Tithes received Jan.-Sept.	\$457,778	506,639 (includes \$184,995 for mortgage)
Total Operating Expenses January-September, 2025		\$ 589,987
Total income January-September, 2025		<u>571,550</u>
DEFICIT for the first 9 months:		\$ 18,437
Temple donations in Sept. 2025	\$ 3,265	
Temple Fund donations Jan-Sept., 2025	\$ 48,644	
Temple Fund Balance year-to-date:	\$ 1,040,631	(Reserved for Building Project)

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES

ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 5:30 p.m., we will alternate between the Paraklesis, which we pray out in the field by the cross, and Akathist services for various saints prayed in the chapel, many for whom we have relics to venerate.

Nov. 12 Akathist to St. John the Theologian

**During the Advent Fast, we pray the Advent Paraklesis
on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS & SPECIAL SERVICES

Thurs., 11/20	PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS	Vespers	5:00 PM
		Liturgy/Potluck	5:45 PM
Wed., 11/26	EVE OF THANKSGIVING	Akathist	6:00 PM
Thurs., 11/27	THANKSGIVING DAY	Liturgy	9:00 AM

The Nativity Fast is suspended for the day and kept as a feast day.

Thurs., 12/4 Feast of St. Barbara
*The Patronal Feast for our sister parish and the Monastery.
See their service schedules.*

Fri., 12/5	FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS	Vespers	6:00 PM
	Nativity Play & Visit by St. Nicholas		
Wed., 12/24	PARAMON OF THE NATIVITY	Royal Hours	9:00 AM
	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	Matins/Liturgy	10:00 PM

We begin the fast-free period of festal joy kept until the Eve of Theophany, January 5th.

Sat., 12/27	Commemoration of the Slaughter of the Innocents	Vespers	5:30 PM
	<i>Our Remembrance of all the victims of abortion and those affected by it.</i>		
Sun., 12/28	Blessing of the Graves at Goleta Cemetery		1:00 PM
Thurs., 1/1	FEASTS OF ST. BASIL/CIRCUMCISION	Liturgy	9:00 AM
Fri. 1/2	“Ninth Day of Christmas” Family Night		6:00 PM
Mon., 1/5	PARAMON OF THEOPHANY	Royal Hours	9:00 AM
	GREAT & HOLY THEOPHANY	Festal Matins	4:30 PM
		Festal Liturgy	5:30 PM

The Great Blessing of the Waters will be during Matins.

The Baptism and Chrismation of Converts will be during the Divine Liturgy.

Resume regular fasting times on January 7.

REMINDERS & HELPFUL INFORMATION

- To access Metropolitan SABA's teaching for THIS WEEK, "Impressions of a Visit, Part One" GO TO: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2618>
- To access Metropolitan SABA's other teachings and updates, go here: <https://www.antiochian.org/dashboard?name=MetSaba>
- You can access a vocal warm-up video made by our choir in September 2024 through this link: <https://bit.ly/SAOCChoirWarmup>
- Our choir made a CD in 2017 for the 30th Anniversary of our parish. Included on the CD are many of the hymns we still sing on Sundays, as well as a few of the songs that were written as the founders were finding their way to Orthodoxy. You can purchase the CD in mp3 download format through Ancient Faith here: <https://store.ancientfaith.com/sing-to-the-lord-a-new-song-mp3-download/>
- To watch the "Welcome Home" video about the reception of the Evangelical Orthodox Church into the Orthodox Faith in 1987: https://youtu.be/57zXBSCuFKk?si=2iRR0EQj2i_TQpMk
- We still live-stream our Sunday morning services on most Sundays. (audio only) You can access them on our Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to listen. <https://www.facebook.com/StAthanasiusOrthodoxChurch/>
- The Sunday sermons are posted here: <https://www.stathanasius.org/media/homilies-audio/>
- You can make donations/tithes or bookstore payments online through our parish website. Please be sure to choose the appropriate EARMARK so that we know how to apply your payment. <https://www.stathanasius.org/donation/>
- The parish website is currently under reconstruction and redesign. We expect to be able to offer a way to set up recurring electronic tithe payments by early 2026.
- There are lots of photos from past feast days and events posted to the parish website, going as far back as 2006, and as recent as our 2025 Golf Tournament: <https://www.stathanasius.org/media/photo-gallery/page1>
- **IF YOU NOTICE SOMETHING THAT IS BROKEN OR NEEDS ATTENTION,** please send an email to Chris Robinson at: maintenancesupervisor@stathanasius.org. Please do not text him. Chris' weekly hours at the church are Fridays from 1-3 p.m.

PRAYER 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:

His Beatitude, Patriarch John X
Metropolitan SABA
Mother Victoria
Met. Paul & Abp. John
Abp. Benjamin
Fr. Gabriel in Kenya (OCMC)
Fr. Jon B.
Fr. John & Kh. Diane C.
Fr. Nicholas & Jan
Fr. Turbo & St. Mary parish
Fr. Paul and St. Moses parish
Hieromonk Siloan
Greg & Margaret Y.
Hoppe Family in Albania (OCMC)
Joseph Wm. B. in Kenya
Duane F.
Richard and Susan B.
Kh. Melissa H.
Jeremiah & Sarah H. (military)
Chase K. (military)
Nick & Kristine J. (military)
Julianna & Zaron D. (military)
P. Speier (military)

Steve T.
Dn. John & Fay Y.
Kh. Peggy K.
Kh. Janet Henderson
Phyllis M.
Fr. Joseph A.
Galeyna T.
Jill W. and Family
Shirley D. and Family
Penny B.
Justin & Amber B.
Cameron B.
Kh. Elizabeth S.
Zosimos S.

For the local agencies and their leaders who are working to fight human trafficking.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church

All those suffering and in danger in Ukraine, Africa, and the Middle East

Please pray for the raising up and support of long-term missionaries from our parish.

OUR CATECHUMENS:

Cameron Clouse
Joshua Dunford
Kartik Kommu
Sahit Rampilla
Ethan Salcedo
Tyler Vrem
Joshua Weiss (currently lives abroad)
Martin Wilson

For repose of the souls of: Guadalupe, Edgar

ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH BOOKSTORE

The church bookstore is located in the foyer of our building. The tables and cabinets contain items that are FOR SALE. If you need a cross or chain and jewelry is not displayed on Sunday, contact **Terri Speier at: bookstore@stathanasius.org**.

Payment should be made at the time of purchase. Cash and checks may be placed in the brown lockbox on wall next to Fr. Symeon's office. Make checks payable to **S.A.O.C. Bookstore**.

Online payment can be made at www.stathanasius.org. (Select "MAKE A DONATION," and then use the dropdown earmark for BOOKSTORE.)

The pamphlets in the rack are FREE, as are the 12-month liturgical calendars.

All proceeds go to the parish Temple Fund.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 9—ST. NEKTARIOS

9:00 a.m.	Religious Ed. for ages 3 yrs—Grade 6
9:00 a.m.	Matins
10:00 a.m.	Liturgy
11:30 a.m.	Teen Education
11:45 a.m.	Agape Meal
12:15 p.m.	Singing Session — Carols
12:45 p.m.	Adult Catechism and Nativity Play Rehearsal

Monday, November 10

7:00 a.m.	Daily Readers Matins
3:00 p.m.	St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom (Akathist for St. Nikiforos)

Tuesday, November 11

5:30 p.m.	Daily Vespers
6:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Wednesday, November 12

7:00 a.m.	Daily Reader's Matins
11:55 a.m.	St. Xenia Prayer Ministry
5:30 p.m.	Akathist to St. John the Theologian

Thursday, November 13

7:45 a.m.	St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom
10:00 a.m.	Showers of Blessing
5:30 p.m.	Daily Vespers
6:00 p.m.	Jr. High Youth Group
6:45 p.m.	High School Youth Group
6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m.	Men's Fellowship Fireside Gathering

Friday, November 14

7:00 a.m.	Daily Matins (with priest)
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Saturday, November 15—ADVENT BEGINS

5:30 p.m.	Great Vespers/Confessions
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Sunday, November 16

9:00 a.m.	Religious Ed. for ages 3 yrs—Grade 6
9:00 a.m.	Matins
10:00 a.m.	Liturgy
11:30 a.m.	Teen Education
11:45 a.m.	Agape Meal
12:15 p.m.	Singing Session — Carols
12:45 p.m.	Adult Catechism and Nativity Play Rehearsal

THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS!

EUCHARIST BREAD

Nov. 9	Frangos
Nov. 16	Meyer
Nov. 20	Kern (Feast of Presentation)
Nov. 23	Morrison
Nov. 30	Jacobs

READERS

November 9	Butler
November 15	Meyer
November 16	Gish
November 20	Kern (Presentation of Theotokos)
November 23	Lange
November 27	TBA (Thanksgiving Day Liturgy)
November 29	Alexander (Vespers)
November 30	Butler

GREETERS

November 9	G. Hoppe/B. Eberhard
November 16	K.P. King/L. Baker
November 23	J. & M. Worthington
November 30	A. G. Salinas/C. Clements

USHERS

November 9	D. Washburn/M. Loulias
November 16	S. Speier/C. Speier
November 23	D. Meyer/K.L. King
November 30	M. Loulias/D. Washburn

AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

November 9	Team S.&T. Speier
November 16	Team Halsell
November 23	Team Worthington
November 30	Team Aviles/Wood

WE NEED YOUR HELP...

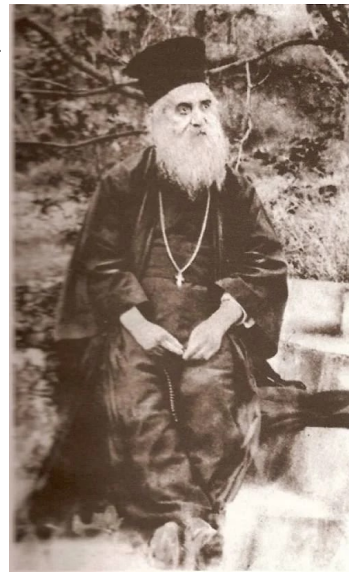
We ask that you kindly clean up your own sitting area and return service booklets at the end of each service. Weekly bulletins and Matins/Vespers weekly handouts may be taken home.
Thank you!

St. Nektarios of Aegina and Pentapolis, the Wonderworker

When we think of saints, we often think of people who lived centuries ago. St. Nektarios, on the contrary, lived and died in the earlier part of the twentieth century. Born in Selyvria, Thrace (part of present-day Turkey), in October of 1846 as Anastasios Kephalas, Nektarios (his ordained name) began working and studying in Constantinople at age 14. Six years later he traveled to the island of Chios and entered a monastery. From there, he went to serve under Patriarch Sophronios, of Alexandria, Egypt.

Bishop Nektarios' spiritual callings were perhaps more fulfilled when he started a convent for nuns on a small island not too far from the seaport of Piraeus, Greece. On Aegina, Bishop Nektarios founded the Convent of the Holy Trinity. It was here at his convent that Nektarios would make his greatest contributions to the Orthodox Church. In 1910 Nektarios retired to the Convent of the Holy Trinity to spend his last years. People flocked to Aegina to worship with the bishop, to listen to his sermons, and to be healed from different illnesses.

St. Nektarios died on November 9, 1920 and was buried in a special chapel which he had built. People continued to flock to the Convent of the Holy Trinity, to pay their respects at the Shrine of St. Nektarios. Miracles continue to take place at his grave site year after year. Eventually, the Patriarchate of Constantinople proclaimed Nektarios a Saint in 1961. St. Nektarios is considered the Patron Saint for people who have cancer, heart trouble, arthritis, epilepsy and other sicknesses. Visitors to this shrine leave filled with the love and peace that St. Nektarios gave to all when he lived. https://www.stnektarios.org/1_6_2



Righteous Mother Olga of Kwethluk–Tanqilria Arrsamquq– Wonderworker, Matushka of All Alaska

(Commemorated October 27 on the New Calendar & November 10 on the Old Calendar)

Her life bore resemblance to the holy women of the Scriptures. Like Tabitha (Dorcas) in the Acts of the Apostles, she was “full of good works and deeds,” and like the Most Pure Virgin Mother of God, she treasured the mysteries of life and of God in her heart. She clothed the naked, fed the hungry, and helped bring new life into the world. As a midwife, she accompanied women through the dangers and blessings of childbirth; as a counselor, she listened to those suffering in silence, especially women who had suffered abuse. Her presence was maternal, unjudging, and deeply healing.

Though she lived in a land of long winters and hardship, she herself was a source of warmth. Her daily life—marked by prayer, labor, and service—became a hidden offering to Christ. Her prosphora was kneaded with prayers, her garments sewn with intention, her silence filled with watchfulness and love.

Those who knew her remember her not for speeches or public deeds, but for the realness of her presence. She was always there—praying quietly in church, listening without interruption, carrying burdens without needing thanks. In the eyes of the world, she was not great. But in the Kingdom of God, where humility is greatness and the last are first, she walked with the saints.



Mother Olga lived from 1916-1979. She was canonized a saint on June 19, 2025. To read her full story: <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/10/27/100561-righteous-mother-olga-of-kwethluktanqilria-arrsamquqwonderworker>