



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

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Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

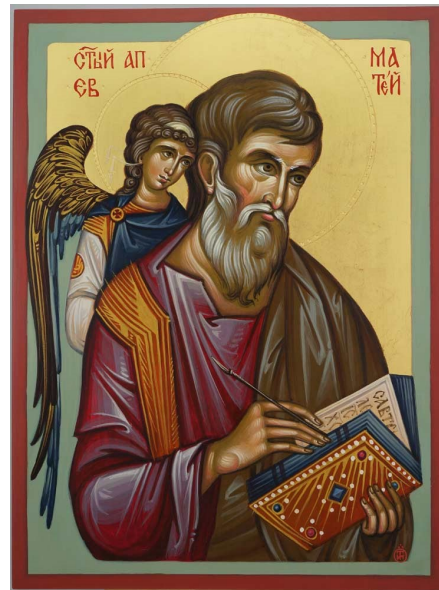
Sunday, November 16, 2025

Tone 6 / Eothinon 1

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

Martyr Ephygenia of Ethiopia, Disciple of St. Matthew;

Fulvian, Prince of Ethiopia



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”
(The choir sings the verses and the Faithful sing the refrain:
“Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your Kingdom.”)**

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 6

When Mary stood at Thy grave looking for Thy sacred body,
angelic pow'rs shone above Thy revered tomb,
and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men.
Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted there-by,
Thou did meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world.
O Thou Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion for St. Matthew

Tone 3

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew,
entreat the merciful God//
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

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 8

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the universe! (*Ps 18/19:4*)

*v: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His
handiwork. (Ps 18/19:1)*

EPISTLE READING

I Corinthians 4:9-16

Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Alleluia Refrain and Psalm verses before the Gospel

Tone 6

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Vs. 1 He Who dwelleth in the help of the Most High shall abide under the
shadow of the protection of the God of Heaven. (*Ps 90/91:1*) **Alleluia**

Vs. 2 He will say to the Lord, Thou art my protector and my
refuge, my God, in Him will I hope. (*Ps 90/91:2*) **Alleluia**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:9-13

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and He said to him, “Follow Me.” And he rose and followed Him. And as He sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when Jesus heard it, He said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

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*)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. (*Ps. 18:4*) 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

Birthdays

11/17 Catherine Braun
 11/17 John Heiduk
 11/18 Taylor Eberhard
 11/19 Atalia Finley, Juliet Macdonald, Kristen Roberts
 11/22 Jami Stetler

Patronal Feast Days

11/16	St. Matthew the Apostle	Mateo Finley, Larry Lander
11/19	Prophet Obadiah	Obadiah Robinson
11/21	The Theotokos (Feast of Presentation)	Camila Aviles, Kristi King

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

WE WILL CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS IN THE TEMPLE this 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>

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY— A TIME FOR GIVING THANKS TO GOD

On the eve of Thanksgiving (Wed. Nov. 26) at 6 p.m. we will pray the beautifully poetic Akathist of Thanksgiving, written in Russian by Metropolitan Tryphon in 1934, at the height of the Soviet persecution. We sing it in English in a simple Tone Six Kievan chant style, set to music by Fr. Patrick Kinder (of blessed memory). On Thanksgiving morning we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. Both of these services are a perfect way to begin a weekend intended to turn our hearts towards gratitude for all of our blessings.

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>

****SPECIAL NOTE ON THE NATIVITY FAST****

On November 15, we began, with God's help, the forty-day Nativity Fast in preparation for the great feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25. Throughout this period, we abstain from meat, poultry, eggs and dairy. According to the Patriarchate of Antioch, it is not necessary to fast from oil, but people may choose to do so. Please consult your spiritual father for guidance.

From November 15-December 11, fish, wine and oil are allowed every day, except Wednesdays and Fridays. But fish, wine and oil are allowed on November 21, the Entrance of the Theotokos, regardless on which day of the week it falls. We have dispensation from the Fast on THANKSGIVING DAY, Nov. 27.

From December 12-24, we observe a strict fast with katalysis (relaxation) for wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays, on commemorations of vigil-rank and intermediate-rank saints such as Nicholas and Ignatius, and for church patronal saints.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES

**During the Nativity 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 Liturgy/Potluck	5:00 PM 5:45 PM
Wed., 11/26	EVE OF THANKSGIVING	Akathist	6:00 PM
Thurs., 11/27	THANKSGIVING DAY	Liturgy	9:00 AM
<i>The Nativity Fast is suspended for the day and kept as a feast day.</i>			
Thurs., 12/4	Feast of St. Barbara <i>The Patronal Feast for our sister parish and the Monastery. See their service schedules.</i>		
Fri., 12/5	FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS Nativity Play & Visit by St. Nicholas	Vespers	6:00 PM
Wed., 12/24	PARAMON OF THE NATIVITY NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	Royal Hours Matins/Liturgy	9:00 AM 10:00 PM
<i>We begin the fast-free period of festal joy kept until the Eve of Theophany, January 5th.</i>			
Sat., 12/27	Commemoration of the Slaughter of the Innocents <i>Our Remembrance of all the victims of abortion and those affected by it.</i>	Vespers	5:30 PM
Sun., 12/28	Blessing of the Graves at Goleta Cemetery		1:00 PM

A FEW REQUESTS...

AGAPE MEAL DONATIONS

Please help us to break even on our Agape Meals by donating regularly to help us cover the cost of coffee, paper products and other supplies. We realize that many folks do not carry cash these days. Consider making a contribution once a month when you make your tithe to the church, either online through the website, or by check. If you do this, please be sure to indicate how much of the total amount should be designated for the weekly Agape Meal.

ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE (for Festal Decorating or Showers of Blessing)

If you have items of any kind that you would like to donate, please check first with the head of the appropriate ministry before just leaving them at the church. We are undergoing some changes in the big kitchen to comply with county health regulations, so food and floral items have to be handled in a very particular way, and not just set on one of the counter tops. We do periodic clothing collections for the Showers of Blessing when they request specific items. We will let our parishioners know when there is a need. Otherwise, it is best to donate used clothing to a thrift store or shelter.

REMINDERS & HELPFUL INFORMATION

- To access Metropolitan SABA's teaching for THIS WEEK, "Impressions of a Visit — Part Two," go to: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2626>
- 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
Nathan Wright, Owain & Gavin

For repose of the souls of: Aurora, 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 16—ST. MATTHEW

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.	Choir Rehearsal
12:45 p.m.	Adult Catechism and Nativity Play Rehearsal

Monday, November 17

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

Tuesday, November 18

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

Wednesday, November 19

7:00 a.m.	Daily Reader's Matins
11:55 a.m.	St. Xenia Prayer Ministry
6:00 p.m.	Advent Paraklesis
7:00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, November 20

7:45 a.m.	St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom
10:00 a.m.	Showers of Blessing
5:00 p.m.	Vespers for Presentation of Theotokos
5:45 p.m.	Liturgy for Presentation of Theotokos
7:15 p.m.	POTLUCK SUPPER

Friday, November 21

7:00 a.m.	Daily Matins
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Saturday, November 22

5:30 p.m.	Great Vespers/Confessions
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Sunday, November 23

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.	Choir Rehearsal
12:45 p.m.	Adult Catechism and Nativity Play Rehearsal
4:00 p.m.	Young Adult Potluck at Zac Wood's

THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS!

EUCCHARIST BREAD

November 16	Meyer
November 20	Kern (Feast of Presentation)
November 23	Morrison
November 30	Jacobs
December 7	Fr. Nicholas

READERS

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
December 5	Meyer (Vespers for St. Nicholas)
December 7	Gish

WELCOME MINISTRY

November 16	K.P. King/G. Hoppe
November 23	J. & M. Worthington
November 30	A. G. Salinas/C. Clements
December 7	M. Wayne/K.L. King

USHERS

November 16	S. Speier/C. Speier
November 23	D. Meyer/K.L. King
November 30	M. Loulias/D. Washburn
December 7	P. King, J. King

AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

November 16	Team Halsell
November 23	Team Worthington
November 30	Team Aviles/Wood
December 7	Team Wayne

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!

