

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 email: office@stathanasius.org

Parish Council:

Douglas Meyer, President
Dan Braun, Treasurer
Benjamin Hedges, Secretary
Katie AbuGhazaleh
Richard Barre
Catherine Braun
Dottie Genatone
Verne Gish
Kristi King

LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, December 18, 2016
Tone 1 / Eothinon 4
Sunday before the Nativity of Christ (The Genealogy)
Martyrs Sebastian and Zoe of Rome, and those with them



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.

Please join us at Coffee Hour~ we'd love to meet you!

Calendar for this Week

Sunday, December 18

Sunday of Genealogy of Christ

9:00 a.m. Religious Education ages 6-18 yrs.

9:00 a.m. Matins

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour12:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 19

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins in the chapel 4:30 p.m. St. Brigid Outreach dinner at

St. Michael's in Isla Vista

Tuesday, December 20-St. John of Kronstadt

3:15 p.m. Catechesis Level I

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers in the chapel

Wednesday, December 21

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins in the chapel 11 a.m.-1p.m. Shower of Blessings Ministry

12:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Group

5:00 p.m. 30 Anniversary Committee Meeting

6:00 p.m. Advent Paraklesis Service

Thursday, December 22

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers in the chapel 6:30 p.m. Movie Night—All teens

Please eat dinner before you come.

CHOIR REHEARSAL CANCELLED

Friday, December 23

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins in the chapel

Saturday, December 24-NATIVITY EVE

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours of Nativity (complete) 8:00 p.m. Nativity Matins/Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 25

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST

10:00 a.m. St. Brigid Outreach Breakfast

At St. Michael's in Isla Vista

Sunday Morning Ministries Schedule

Eucharist Bread

December 18 Braun
December 24 Kern
January 1 Kern

January 8 Washburn

Coffee Hour December 18

December 18 Vander Laan in honor of Miriam's

name day (Prophetess Miriam, 12/17)

December 24 Yova and Elves—Nativity Reception

January 1 NEED A HOST — St. Basil/New Year's

January 8 King Family

Greeters

December 18 G. Shannon/L. Baker

December 24 P. King/K. Fox

January 1 P. Morrison/D. Genatone

January 8 H. Lange/C. Berari

Ushers

December 18 C. Speier, J. King, D. Washburn December 24 C. Berari, P. Brunner, P. King

December 24 C. Berari, P. Brunner, P. King

January 1 R. Barre, D. Lewis, D. Washburn

January 8 C. Speier, J. King, C. Berari

Readers

December 17 G. Wiley (Vespers)

December 18 D. Meyer

December 24 M. Kern (Royal Hours of Nativity)

December 24 D. Alexander (Nativity Liturgy)

December 31 R. Barre (Great Vespers)

January 1 V. Gish

January 4 Daily Matins Readers: Royal Hours January 5 P. Braun/T. Harris (Vesp. Liturgy)

January 8 H. Lange (Liturgy & Outdoor Blessing)

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 wast 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.

AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE, WE SING THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL HYMNS FOR THE DAY

Troparion of the Resurrection (Music on page 53 of Liturgy Book)

From the heights Thou didst descend,

O Compassionate One;

and Thou didst submit to the three day burial,

that Thou might deliver us from passion.

Thou art our Life and our Resurrection,

O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion for the Sunday of the Ancestors of Christ

Great are the accomplishments of faith,

for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames

as though in the waters of rest;

and the Prophet Daniel appeared

a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.

So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 8 Byzantine melody harmonized by Fr. J. Finley

Tone 2 Slavic Chant

Troparion to St. Athanasius (Music on p. 54 of Liturgy book)

Tone 3 Byzantine melody harmonized by Fr. J. Finley

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 Preparation of Christ's Nativity

Tone 3 Byzantine melody harmonized by F. Karam

The virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth, at the message; with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him Who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He who is from eternity God.

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.

Preparatory Psalm Verses before the Epistle (Prokeimenon) Tone 4

Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever.

Verse: For You are just in all that You have done for us

EPISTLE READING Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Preparatory Psalm Verses with Alleluia Refrain Before the Gospel (Music on page 64 of Liturgy Booklet)

Tone 4

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! **People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**!

v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps 43/44:1)

v: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us. (Ps 43/44:7)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim,

and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

HOLY COMMUNION

In the Orthodox Church, the sacrament of Communion is offered only to Christians who are baptized in the name of the Trinity and chrismated into the Orthodox Faith. Non-Orthodox believers **may approach the chalice for a blessing and the blessed bread instead of the Eucharist.** So that the priest is aware of this, please just say,

"Father, bless" when you get to the chalice.

Thanksgiving Prayers after Communion

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, we offer the prayers of thanksgiving for having received the Body and Blood of Christ. These beautiful prayers help us to reflect on the mystery in which we have just partaken, and prepare us for our transition back into the "world." We invite you to listen to these beautiful prayers during and after the veneration of the cross at the end of the service, and ask that you show courtesy to those who are remaining to hear the prayers in their entirety by waiting until Coffee Hour to socialize.

LITURGY OF THE FAITHFUL

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.

Hymns sung as the clergy receive the Eucharist for the feast of the Cross

- Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)
- Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1
- The Jesus Prayer: "O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

CELEBRATIONS for THIS WEEK

Wedding Anniversaries

12/18 Gary & Regina Moon (celebrating 40 years!)

Birthdays

12/18	Dorothy Alexander
12/20	Hudson Zidek
12/22	Zoe Macdonald, Alexander Nikolov, Zachary Nikolov
12/24	Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges, Jared Speier, Rachel Friesen
12/26	Jerry Jones
12/29	Karen Jacobs, Tyler Speier

Patron Saint Commemorations

12/18	St. Zoe of Rome	Zoe Macdonald
12/20	St. John of Kronstadt	John de Bruin, Jill Wallestedt
12/22	Great Martyr Anastasia	Anastasia Brunner
12/24	St. Nestan of Georgia	Nestan Tsiskaridze
12/27	St. Stephen the Protomartyr	Subdn. Stephen Butler,
	-	Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges, Steve Thomas

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

WE ARE OFFERING AN EXPANDED BOOKSTORE for the last time today, so that you can purchase Christmas gifts from our wonderful selection of books, jewelry and ornaments. Please try to do your purchasing on your way out to Coffee Hour so that our bookstore volunteers can also get out to Coffee Hour. Thanks!

THE ST. STEPHEN'S STUDY GROUP is meeting every other Sunday after church! Please call or email Michael Easbey with any questions - 805-705-6121 or measbey@gmail.com.

STICKS IS A MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP TIME FOR MEN that meets the third Monday of each month, from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Troy Harris's house. Watch the parish website calendar and bulletin for reminders and RSVP to saoc@kr1ses.net. Sticks: Some guys enjoy aiming their cue at the 8-ball, some prefer puffing their cigars, and others just like to toast their toes at the burning logs in the fire pit. Whichever of these long, thin things suits you, come gather with us.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE PARISH 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION February 17-19, 2017

Fri. 2/17 & Sat. 2/18 Pre-Lenten Seminar:

Paul Finley will teach on The Beatitudes

Sun. 2/19 Meatfare Bash/Anniversary Program

2017 LITURGICAL CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Liturgical wall calendars for 2017 are now available (first come-first served) in the entryway 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.

PRAYER FOR THE NATIVITY FAST

(For Families with Young Children)

Lord, our God, as you entered into the world as a newborn baby, enter also into our hearts so that we may prepare for your glorious coming.

Help us to be still so we can hear the angels announce your Nativity.

Help us to keep our eyes clear so we may follow the star to your Son's birth.

Help us to turn our minds, hearts, and whole bodies toward you so that we may realize that the best gifts come from above.

As You so loved the world that You gave us your only begotten Son, help us to share this love with family, friends, enemies, and everyone we meet.

We ask this in your holy name: The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING FEAST DAYS & CELEBRATIONS

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Saturday, December 24

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours (Complete)

8:00 p.m. Nativity Matins & Liturgy followed by cookies & hot cider

Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day NO MORNING SERVICE

10:00 a.m. Outreach Breakfast—St. Michael's University Church

hosted by St. Brigid Fellowship — all parishioners

invited!

Tuesday, December 27—12:00 Noon BLESSING OF THE GRAVES—GOLETA CEMETERY

Thursday, December 29 at Daily Vespers—5:30 p.m.
COMMEMORATION OF THE INNOCENTS SLAIN BY
HEROD—Prayers for the souls of infants who have died in childbirth, were stillborn or who died as a result of an abortion

FEAST OF ST. BASIL/NEW YEAR

Saturday, December 31—6:00 p.m. Great Vespers **Sunday, January 1**—9:00 a.m. Matins, 10:00 a.m. Liturgy

FEAST OF EPIPHANY

Wednesday, January 4 at 6:45 a.m. -Royal Hours of Epiphany

Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Vesperal-Liturgy and Blessing of the Water

Sunday, January 8, 2017 after Coffee Hour

Outdoor Blessing of the Water at Santa Barbara Harbor with St. Barbara Greek parish. Bus transportation will be available again at \$5 per person. Please sign up if you are planning to attend.

2016 St. Nicholas Drive for the Needy

ST. BRIGID FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE HOMELESS and those in need to be distributed at our outreach breakfast on Christmas morning. Please keep this in mind as you are doing holiday shopping and consider purchasing an item for the collection. We are asking for:

- · white or dark athletic socks
- warm hats and mittens
- new or gently used/clean sweatshirts
- new or gently used/clean sleeping bags or blankets
- new or gently used jeans

Drop your donated items in the large, decorated box in the hallway.

Please do NOT gift-wrap the donated items, and please limit your gifts to the specific items requested. Thanks!!

Outreach Breakfast on Christmas Morning

Once again, our St. Brigid Ministry Team will be coordinating the lovely Christmas breakfast for the homeless and needy on Dec. 25th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Michael's University Church in Isla Vista. We need lots of help with set-up, cleanup, food preparation, and entertainment, so please sign up to lend a hand in whatever way that you are able. The list is posted on the large bulletin board in the hallway.

If it is impossible to bring food directly to the breakfast on Christmas morning, food items that do not need to be served hot may be brought to the church on Christmas Eve. Please be sure to clearly mark your food and leave it in the small kitchenette by the church office.

Bring the entire family that day and enjoy an extra special Christmas morning blessing by opening your hearts to those in need!



St. Nicholas Night 2016 Thanks to all who helped to make it a wonderful celebration!

- Fr. Nicholas for his blessing, support, and enthusiasm!
- Valerie Yova, Nancy Gilbert & Jan Speier for the Musical Preparation;
- Patrick Gilbert, Chris Robinson, Mitchell Denny,
 Beau Brunner and Luke Speier for putting up the stage;
- Tyler Speier, Michael Easbey and our teens for being the narrators: Joe Ballew, Tom Ballew, Tati Speier;
- Our Adult Choir, Girls' Choir, "Band," and ensembles:
 Melissa, Catherine, Stephanie & Ginny Braun; Verne & Mary Gish;
 John Butler, Paul Wintz & Nancy Gilbert
- Joanne Gish and Adam King for the Advent Wreath lighting
- Christie Speier Robinson for coordinating the reception!



OUTDOOR GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS for the Feast of Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 2017

This year we will join St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church again for the Outdoor Blessing of the Waters on Sunday, January 8th. We will be meeting them at the Santa Barbara Harbor, near West Beach and the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

Once again, we will be taking a bus down to the harbor at 12:30 p.m. that day, because parking is often difficult to find. There will be a small per-person cost for taking the bus. Those who joined us last year will remember that, in spite of the light drizzle, it was a really lovely time with our Orthodox brothers and sisters from St. Barbara's.

If you would like to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board or send an email to: office@stathanasius.org. Be sure to stipulate how many family members will attend and how many would like to ride the bus. If necessary, we will rent two buses to accommodate everyone. St. Barbara's will be providing refreshments again and they need to know how many from our parish will attend.



TEEN SCENE

DECEMBER, 2016

Unless specified otherwise, on Thursday evenings the Jr. Highers meet from 6pm - 7:30pm and High Schoolers meet from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

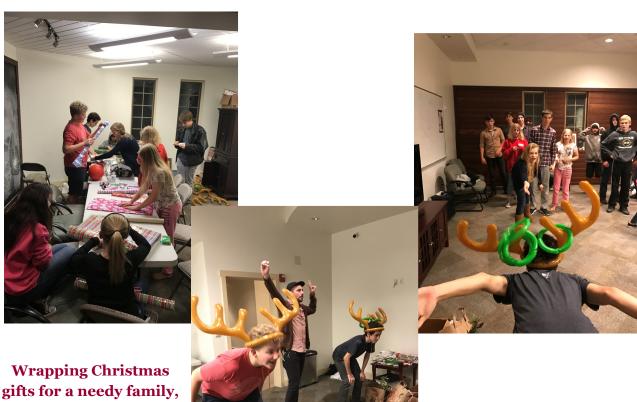
12/22 Christmas Movie Night in the Youth Room

6:30pm - 8:30pm (All Teens come at the Same Time)
Please eat dinner before you come - hot cocoa and dessert will be served

12/28 - Youth Groupers Meet for Lunch at Camino Real from 12pm to 1pm.

Bring Cash for lunch, and come to hang out! If any good movies are playing, we may add a movie to this.

NO YOUTH GROUP THURSDAY, 12/29.



Wrapping Christmas gifts for a needy family, and playing some Christmas games at Youth Group on 12/8.

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:

Metropolitan JOSEPH Mother Victoria

Met. Paul & Abp. John

Fr. Jon Braun

Dn. Richard E.

Kh. Diane C. Kh. Mary Sue W.

Fr. Patrick and Vanessa K.

Greg & Margaret Y.

Hoppe Family

Gail S.

Dean & Penny B. Kevin & Angel S.

Baby Emma

Mary Susan B.

Baby Christian F.

Duane F.

Galina, Nikolai & Nataliya

Olga Marie G. Emily F. Joan T.

Terri-Lynn & Hannah Rose H.

Jared E.

James

Alma G. Dawn L.

Zamora Family

Michael L., Penny C. and Family

Greg Z.

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

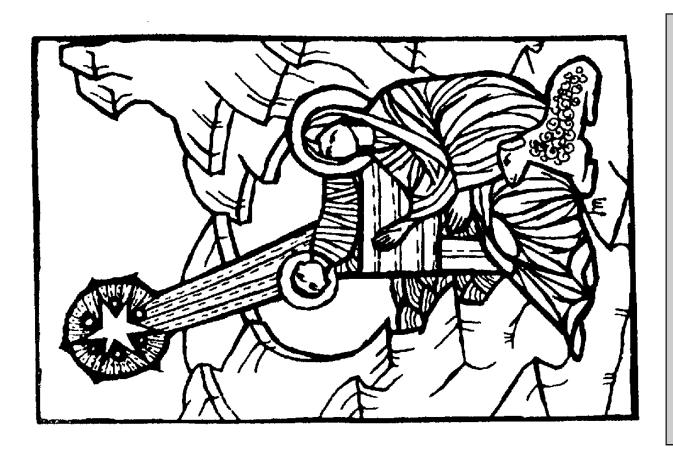
For repose of the souls of: All who have died in the conflicts in the Ukraine, Africa & the Middle East

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).

********************************* 米 ST. ATHANASIUS BOOK CENTER 米 米 * The church bookstore is located in the fover of 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 lockbox mounted on wall next to Fr. Nicholas' office. Make checks payable to "St. *** Athanasius Book Center." All proceeds go to the parish Building Fund. * *********************************



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