

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
Katie AbuGhazaleh, Secretary
Richard Barre
Catherine Braun
Dottie Genatone
Benjamin Hedges
Karen Jacobs
Dr. Jon King

LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, October 11, 2015
Tone 2 / Eothinon 8
Sunday of Holy Fathers of the
Seventh Ecumenical Council
& Fourth Sunday of Luke

Apostle Philip the Deacon of the Seventy; Venerable Theophanes the branded; Nektarios, Arsakios, Sisinios and Philotheos Kokkinos, Patriarchs of Constantinople; Venerable Jonah of Cyprus



Apostle Philip, the Deacon of the Seventy, from Palestine—1st Century

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

Welcome to Metropolitan JOSEPH and all of our guests who are with us this weekend for the Diocesan Fall Gathering!

Sunday, October 11- FALL GATHERING NO TEEN CLASSES TODAY

9:00 a.m. Religious Ed classes Grades 1-6

9:00 a.m. Matins

10:00 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy11:45 a.m. POTLUCK/Reception for the

Metropolitan & Visitors

Monday, October 12

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins

5:00 p.m. Outreach Meal at St. Michaels'

University Church in Isla Vista

Tuesday, October 13

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

Wednesday, October 14

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins

12:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Group

Thursday, October 15

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

Friday, October 16

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins 6:30 p.m. Vespers

Saturday, October 17

9:00 a .m. Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood

4:30 p.m. Adult Catechism

6:00 p.m. Vespers

Sunday, October 18

9:00 a.m. Religious Ed classes Grades 1-12

9:00 a.m. Matins

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

Sunday Morning Ministries Schedule

Eucharist Bread

October 11 Meyer
October 18 Thomas
October 25 Hedges

November 1 D. Washburn

Coffee Hour

October 11 POTLUCK—Fall Gathering

October 18 Kern/Ballew

October 25 Harris

November 1 Penny Brunner (in memory

of Cyrus Brunner)

Greeters

October 11 K. & L. Jacobs
October 18 K. Fox/, P. King
October 25 L. Baker, G. Shannon

November 1 K. King, P. King

Ushers

October 11 C. Speier, P. King October 18 J. King, G. Shannon

October 25 S. Speier, P. Brunner, P. King November 1 D. Meyer, R. Barre, D. Lewis

Readers

October 10 D. Alexander (Great Vespers)

October 11 R. Barre
October 18 P. Braun
October 25 V. Gish
November 1 T. Harris

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—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

Troparion of the Resurrection (Music on p. 42 of Liturgy boo

(Music on p. 42 of Liturgy book)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death,
O Thou deathless and immortal One,
then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly pow'r,
and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth,
all the pow'rs of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee.
O Christ, Thou art the Giver of life, Glory to Thee.

Tone 2 Byzantine melody harmonized by Fr. J. Finley

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

Troparion of the Resurrection (Music on p. 42 of Liturgy book)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly pow'r, and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth,

all the pow'rs of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee. O Christ, Thou art the Giver of life, Glory to Thee. **Tone 2** Byzantine melody harmonized by Fr. J. Finley

Troparion for the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council Tone 8 Byzantine chant

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God,

Who has established our Fathers

As luminous starts upon the earth,

And through them didst guide us all

To the true Faith.

O Most Merciful One,

Glory be to Thee.

Tone 8 Byzantine chant from St. Anthony Monastery

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

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.

Tone 3 Byzantine melody harmonized by Fr. J. Finley

Kontakion - Ordinary Sundays (Sung by the Metropolitan) Tone 4

O undisputed intercessor of Christians,

O mediatrix, who is unrejected by the creator.

Turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners.

Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith,

for thou art good. Hasten unto us with intercessions, O Theotokos,

who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

TRISAGION HYMN

[People] Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (2 times)

[Clergy]: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

[People] Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

[Clergy]: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

[People] 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.

Holy God;

[Metropolitan] Look down from heaven O Lord and behold and visit this vineyard which

Thou hast made with Thy right hand.

[People] Many years to you, O master. Holy Mighty;

[Metropolitan] Look down from heaven O Lord and behold and visit this vineyard which

Thou hast made with Your right hand.

[People] Many years to you, O master. Holy Immortal;

[Metropolitan] Look down from heaven O Lord and behold and visit this vineyard which

Thou hast made with Your right hand.

[People] Many years to you, O master. Have mercy on us.

[Deacon] With strength!

[People] Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

[Deacon] O Lord save the faithful

[People] O Lord save the faithful.

[Deacon] O Lord save those of true worship.

[People] O Lord save those of true worship.

[Deacon] And hear us!

[People] And hear us!

Phimi to the Metropolitan: JOSEPH, the most devout, the most rev'rend, chosen by God, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America, our father and chief shepherd; May God grant him many years.

Preparatory Psalm Verses before the Epistle (Prokeimenon)

Tone 8

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

Titus. 3:8-15—For the Holy Fathers

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissension, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

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

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

Verse: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble!

May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! (Ps 19/20:1)

Verse: O Lord, save the King in the day we call on Thee! (Ps 19/20:9)

GOSPEL READING Luke. 8:5-15

The Lord spoke this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As Jesus said this, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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 corruption 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*) Alleluia, Alleluia!

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN JOSEPH!

It is our honor and joy to have our shepherd, His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH with us to-day! May God grant him peace, good health and many years!

Welcome, also to all of our guests who are attending the Diocesan Fall Gathering this weekend!

REMINDER: PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR STEWARDSHIP FORM BY NOVEMBER 1st!

You can submit the paper form and put it in the tithe box, or go to this link and fill it out on line: www.stathanasius.org/stewardship/

ADULT CATECHISM

Join us at 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays from October 3-December 19. We will take a break for the holidays and continue after the New Year. Catechumens, inquirers and those who just want a refresher course are welcome! Please let Fr. Nicholas know if you are planning to attend.

PROJECT MEXICO TEAM 2016

We are trying to assemble our Project Mexico home-building team for next summer. Due to a number of conflicts with the July dates, we are now proposing a mission trip from **June 17-23**. This is not an Orthodox Basic Training week, but there could be as many as 50 participants that week. So there is still an opportunity to meet other Orthodox folks, and also have a more intimate experience than OBT provides. ...Definitely more time with the boys at the orphanage! Summer School begins June 20th at our parish, but any teens who decide to go to Project Mexico and would also like to volunteer at Summer School can do so upon returning from Mexico. We need to sign up by October 15th, so please let Mitch Denny know BY OCTOBER 11th (that's TODAY) if you are interested and can commit to these dates. You can look for him at Coffee Hour today or contact him at: mitchdennyir@gmail.com.



ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS IN VAN NUYS AND LOS ANGELES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ARCHDIOCESE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING—OCTOBER 22-25

St. Michael Church and St. Nicholas Cathedral will be co-hosting the Fall Meeting of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees and the Order of St. Ignatius Governing Council on October 22 -25, 2015. This is a historical event, as it is the first time that the Board is meeting in the West. Saturday evening Vespers will be held at St. Michael Church with the ground-breaking for a new Sanctuary followed by a Banquet honoring Fr. Timothy Baclig's 25th anniversary as Pastor of St. Michael Church; at the Warner Center Marriott. For on-line registration for event tickets and Sponsorship for St. Michael's events.

For more information contact the weekend Co-Chairs: Sondra Love: slove1@socal.rr.com 818.383.3489 or Michael Srour: mcsrour@gmail.com 818.314.9363.

Sunday morning His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH will celebrate a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with the Antiochian Hierarchs at St. Nicholas Cathedral. A special Luncheon will follow in the Heritage Ballroom. To make reservations for the luncheon please contact:

Rose Samore at rosesamore@gmail.com or at 818-956-8555, or Concetta Smarius at Concettasmarius@yahoo.com or at 626-351-8745.

CELEBRATIONS for THIS WEEK

Wedding Anniversaries

10/13 Verne & Joanne Gish (30 YEARS!)

10/17 Tyson & Sherie Shackelford

Birthdays

10/16 Angelina Speier10/17 Abigail Simonsen10/17 Elizabeth Kinman

Patron Saint Commemorations

10/13 St. Benjamin Benny Madrigal, Ben Ballew



With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

We embark on the annual Pilgrimage to St. Paisius Monastery
"With Faith and Love Draw Near"
October 30 - November 1, 2015

†

Presenting the Icon of St. Raphael of Brooklyn to St. Paisius Monastery in Celebration of the Centennial Jubilee of St. Raphael's Repose

Friday, October 30, 2015 - DEPARTURE (times are sharp)

5:45 AM - Departure from St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral – 1621 W. Garvey Ave., Alhambra, 91803
6:45 AM - Riverside/OC group pick up at St. Andrew's – 4700 Canyon Crest Dr., Riverside, 92507
12:00 PM - St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church - Lunch stop (included)
4:00 PM - Arrival at St. Paisius Serbian Orthodox Monastery - Vespers
Followed by a light meal and check in

Saturday, October 31, 2015

Topic Presentations by the monastery sisterhood

Free time - explore the monastery, visit the bookstore, confession

Vespers, light meal, presentation follow-up, group Q&A time

Sunday, November 1, 2015

Divine Liturgy, breakfast and hit the road home! (We'll gain 1 hour)

3-day Round Trip Bus Fare: Adults \$130.00 - Children 15 and under \$65.

Fare includes all transfers, Friday Lunch, snacks and drinks.

‡ Luxury air-conditioned bus with restroom ‡ Seats are limited ‡ Non-refundable bus fare must be paid in advance
‡ In the event of cancellation, your fare will be considered a donation to the monastery ‡

MAKE BUS FARE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

James Gabrie 5228 Hartwick Street Los Angeles CA 90041

Springhill Suites Marriott 928-428-6900 \$ Special Group Rates: King and Double Suites \$94 You must call the hotel directly to reserve your room using the key code "MONASTERY TRIP" ROOMS ARE BLOCKED WITH SPECIAL RATES GOOD ONLY UNTIL October 18, 2015!

If you prefer to stay at the monastery, we will make those arrangements for you

For additional general info call Jimmy at (213) 819-2030 OR email Jasminka jasminka@gabrie.com

Calling all Santa's Helpers!

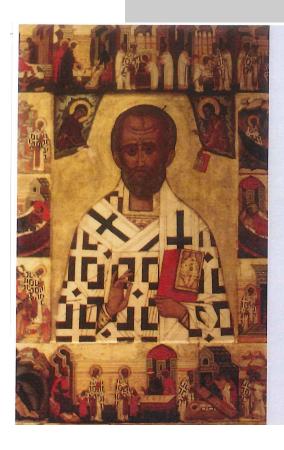
It's time for our annual Project Mexico Christmas Project. This year we will purchase new tennis shoes for all 25 boys at the orphanage.

Preliminary shopping searches have shown that each pair can be up to \$45. We'll need to collect approximately \$1200 so we will need many donors/supporters (45-60 @ \$20-\$25).

Remember all donation amounts are welcome. Please sign up next Sunday and the Sunday following on the SIGN UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX, or contact Cheryl Washburn-Lander if you can participate, 698-1485. Donations must be received by Sunday, November 8th.



From the Westmont College Calendar of Events



Butler Premier Shines Light on Saint Nicholas

Steve Butler says composing music is part of his DNA. A professor of music at Westmont for 20 years, he has created more than two dozen commissioned pieces. "It would be very difficult for me to stop writing music," he says. "I do it because that's what I sense God's purpose is for me. I try to give away what he has so freely given to me."

This spring Butler premieres a new composition inspired by Saint Nicholas, a regular guy, who by grace became capable of achieving and then exceeding the limitations of natural ability. "He was a real hero and a true superman," Butler says. "He gives us hope that we too might become closer to holiness and encourages us all to draw nearer to God. Saint Nicholas' generosity and kindness has inspired me and myriad Christians over the centuries."

The hour-long piece, which includes text from ancient hymns and prayers honoring and praising Saint Nicholas, requires a large orchestra, organ, full choir, children's choir and four soloists. "The Christian hymns are beautiful expressions of prayer and a means of entry into the timeless and eternal peace of Jesus Christ in the Heavenly Kingdom," Butler says. "I hope the work will help change our

everyday lives through the words and sounds of purification and illumination."

The musical language for the Saint Nicholas Oratorio echoes what Butler wrote in the Resurrection Oratorio he premiered six years ago: neo-tonal music in an accessible choral style.

"In my work, I'm always trying to take us all beyond the superficial, beyond the surface reflection, to realize there is a deeper and fulfilling contemplative experience of beauty for the illumined Christian," Butler says. "We can transcend even beyond the words, the notes, the musical material and physical reality of the piece through the gift of grace and the reality of faith.

"I'm blessed to be able to develop my professional craft by searching my soul, to reveal in some tangible musical way, the exhilaration, the profundity, and the pure gratitude that I have for God's revelation of Himself and His saints through the person of Jesus Christ."

Butler quotes an Athonite monk, "Whether you are a beautifully crafted mirror or only the lid of a tin can, you still won't dazzle if the sun's rays don't fall on you."

"I'm trying my best to stand out in the sun," Butler says.

St. Barbara Orthodox Monastery Chapel Building Benefit Dinner

at

Saint Luke Orthodox church
13261 Dunklee Avenue, Garden Grove 92840

Sunday, November 8th 2015
Tickets: \$50/each § \$25/under 12
6pm Cocktail Hour § 7pm Dinner

Featuring delicious food by Chef Kimmy Tang,
Wine-Tasting with Fr. John Finley,

For tickets please contact St. Luke Orthodox Church Anna Nasser: 714-971-2244



Chef Kimmy Tang is the owner and creative force of Asian fusion restaurant 9021Pho. Supported by a celebrity clientele and other members of the community, 9021Pho is popular for its healthy and unique dishes.

Monies raised will go towards completing the building of the chapel.

Saint Barbara Philoptochos Presents

Chef Diane Kochilas

for a Master Class Presentation and Cooking Demonstration Q&A plus Book Signing Food and Wine Tasting







www.saintbarbara.net

Sunday, November 15, 2015 at 1pm

Saint Barbara Event Center - Santa Barbara, CA 1205 San Antonio Creek Road 805-683-4492 \$60.00 In Advance \$65.00 At the Door

Contact: Georgia Gastouniotis ginagaston1@gmail.com 805-455-6725

TEEN SCENE

Activities—Autumn 2015

High School

Date	Activity	Time and Location
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Sunday, 10/18 Fire on Father 5:00 p.m. at Fr. Nicholas & Jan's

Sunday, 11/8 Rescue Mission Service Meet at SAOC. Time TBA

Project

Sunday, 11/22 Fire on Father 5:00 p.m. at Fr. Nicholas & Jan's

Sunday, 12/6 White Elephant Gift Exchange 5:00 p.m., Location TBA

Sunday, 12/13 St. Nicholas Night Meet at 4:00 pm. to set up

Junior High School

All activities are on Saturdays after Vespers

Saturday, 11/7 Event TBA

Saturday, 12/5 Christmas Party

The Pastor's Benevolence Fund

The Pastor's Benevolence Fund enables our priest to respond to the needs of the parish and our local community at his own discernment and discretion. Many members of the parish donate to this fund periodically or monthly with donations earmarked "Pastor's Fund." Consider supporting this fund as you are able. Some of the causes supported this past year through this fund have included:

Members of our parish in need or crisis

FOCUS North America

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministries

Santa Barbara Rescue Mission

Network Medical Pregnancy Crisis Center

Villa Majella Crisis Pregnancy Home

Special Olympics

Homeless and needy individuals in our community

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

St. Barbara Monastery

Casa Esperanza Homeless Center

Sarah House (Hospice for the homeless & needy)

Transition House (families in unstable conditions)

St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology

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 JOSEPHBaby Christian F.Steve T.Mother VictoriaDuane F.Temmo K.Met. Paul & Abp. JohnStan and Donna F.Paige

Dn. Richard E. Angel, Helen and Family Galina, Nikolai & Nataliya

Kh. Mary Sue W. Joy Nikita
Greg & Margaret Y. Ryan Family Marina

Hoppe Family

Kh. Mary Ellen B.

Hannah Rose H.

Krista & Family

Gill G.

Krista & Family

Gail S. Holly C. Emily F.

Dean & Penny Valeria All those suffering and Mary Tami, Denny, Maddie B. in danger in the Ukraine, Africa, and the Middle East

For repose of the souls of: Roseann B., David W., Ryan B., Jane W.

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).

PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

(Please consider incorporating this prayer into your daily devotions during the "40 Days for Life Vigil" - September 23-November 1, 2015)

O Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, Who was pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of Your All-Holy Spirit. O Master, we ask You to enlighten the minds and hearts of those blinded to the truth that life begins at conception, and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with Your image and likeness; enable us to guard, cherish and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For You are the Bestower of Life, bringing each person from non-being into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be merciful, O Lord, to those who, through ignorance or willfulness, affront Your divine goodness and providence through the evil act of abortion. May they, and all of us, come to the light of Your Truth and glorify You, the Giver of Life, together with your Father and Your All-Holy and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

