

# 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 Met. JOSEPH,  
Archbishop of New York &  
Metropolitan of all N. America**

**Senior Pastor:**  
Fr. Nicholas Speier  
805-685-5495  
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**Assistant Pastors:**  
Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges 805-968-1903  
Fr. John Carrillo 805-770-3749  
Fr. Jon Braun, Attached Priest (retired)  
Fr. John Finley, Attached Priest

**Deacons:**  
Dn. Gary Braun  
Dn. Scott Jacobs  
Dn. Richard Easbey  
Dn. John Young

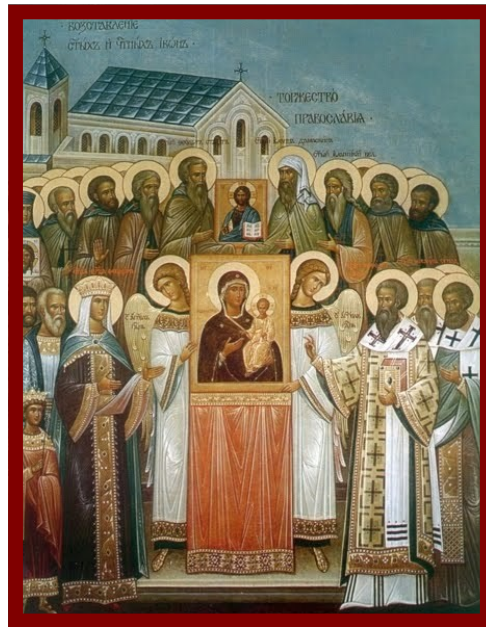
**Music Director/Administrator:**  
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**Youth Coordinator**  
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Parish Council 2017-2018:  
Kristi King, President  
Dan Braun, Treasurer  
Terri Speier, Secretary  
Laurie Baker  
Corina Berari  
David Dillon  
Dottie Genatone  
Verne Gish  
Benjamin Hedges

## LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT Sunday, February 25, 2018

**Tone 5 / Eothinon 5**  
**First Sunday of Great Lent (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**  
Tarasios the Confessor, archbishop of Constantinople;  
Hieromartyr Reginos, Bishop of Skopelos;  
Hieromartyr Markellos, Bishop of Apamea in Syria;  
Martyr Alexander of Markianopolis



## 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, February 25— Sunday of Orthodoxy**

9:00 a.m. Religious Ed. Ages 3-18 years  
 9:00 a.m. Matins  
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour  
 6:00 p.m. Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at  
 Annunciation Church, Santa Maria

### **Monday, February 26**

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins  
 4:30 p.m. Outreach dinner at St. Michael's  
 Church in Isla Vista  
 6:00 p.m. Great Compline

### **Tuesday, February 27**

2:30 p.m. Catechesis Level I  
 7:00 p.m. Men's "Sticks" Gathering  
 NO DAILY VESPERS

### **Wednesday, February 28**

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins  
 12:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Ministry  
 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy  
 7:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

### **Thursday, March 1**

11:00 a.m. Showers of Blessing  
 NO DAILY VESPERS

### **Friday, March 2**

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins  
 6:00 p.m. Akathist to the Mother of God

### **Saturday, March 3**

8:30 a.m. Soul Liturgy  
 4:30 p.m. Adult Catechism  
 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers, Confessions

### **Sunday, March 4—St. Gregory Palamas**

9:00 a.m. Religious Ed. Ages 3-18 years  
 9:00 a.m. Matins  
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour

## ***Sunday Morning Ministries Schedule***

### **Eucharist Bread**

February 25 Hedges  
 March 4 Kern  
 March 11 Jacobs  
 March 18 Tinyayeva

### **Coffee Hour**

February 25 Dillon  
 March 4 D. Washburn/K. Fox  
 March 11 Harris  
 March 18 Young/Ballew

### **Greeters**

February 25 K. & L. Jacobs  
 March 4 Fox/ Deacon  
 March 11 Washburn/Lewis  
 March 18 Lange/Andonian

### **Ushers**

February 25 D. Meyer, R. Barre, D. Lewis  
 March 4 C. Speier, J. King, D. Washburn  
 March 11 C. Berari, G. Shannon, S. Speier  
 March 18 P. Brunner, P. King, D. Meyer

### **Readers**

February 25 V. Gish  
 February 28 H. Lange (Presanctified Liturgy)  
 March 3 T. Harris (Soul Liturgy)  
 March 4 D. Washburn  
 March 7 D. Meyer (Presanctified Liturgy)  
 March 10 D. Alexander (Soul Liturgy)  
 March 11 R. Barre  
 March 14 H. Lange (Presanctified Liturgy)  
 March 17 V. Gish (Soul Liturgy)  
 March 18 T. Harris

**At the conclusion of Matins, we sing the Great Doxology  
and then we sing the Matins Dismissal Troparion.**

**THE DIVINE LITURGY  
OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT**

**GREAT LITANY**

**FIRST ANTIPHON—Psalm verses with refrain**

- The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. For He has established the world so sure that it shall never be moved.

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

- Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can cause all His praises to be heard? Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy. (***Refrain***)
- Glory... Both now... (***Refrain***)
- 

**SECOND ANTIPHON—Psalm verses with refrain**

- Let them praise the Lord for His mercies, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.

***Refrain:* O Son of God, Who rose from the dead; save us who sing to Thee. Alleluia.**

- Let them exalt Him in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the seat of the elders. (***Refrain***)
- The eyes of the Lord are upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; to hear the groaning of the prisoners, to loose the sons of the slain. (***Refrain***)

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

Verse: Let the heavens and the earth praise Him.

**Refrain:**

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One;  
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.  
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the cross in the flesh  
to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy.  
Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:  
“You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,//  
by coming to save the world.”

Verse: This is the day which the Lord hath made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Verse: O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee forever.

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

**Troparion of the Resurrection**

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

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

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

**Tone 5** Byzantine melody  
harmonized by Fr. J. Finley

**Troparion of First Sunday of Great Lent**

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;  
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.  
Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the cross in the flesh  
and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy.  
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:  
“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,  
for Thou didst come to save the world.”

**Tone 2** Byzantine melody

**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 for the Triumph of Orthodoxy**

No one could describe the Word of the Father;  
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos,  
He accepted to be described,  
and restored the fallen image to its former state  
by uniting it to divine beauty.//  
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

**Tone 8** (Slavic Chant)

**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.

**NEW WAY OF SINGING THE PROKEIMENON**  
**(according to the Byzantine practice)**

**Preparatory Psalm Verses before the Epistle (Prokeimenon)**

**Tone 8**

**Chanter:** Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers,  
and praised and glorified is Your name forever.

**People:** Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers,  
and praised and glorified is Your name forever.

**Chanter:** **Verse:** For You are just in all that You have done for us.  
Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers,

**People:** ...and praised and glorified is Your name forever.

### **EPISTLE READING—Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40**

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 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, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, 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.

#### **Alleluia before the Gospel**

**Tone 4**

Chanter: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

*Verse: Moses and Aaron were among His priests;  
Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps 99/100:6)*

*Verse: They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps 99/100:6)*

### **GOSPEL READING— John 1:43-51**

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

### **Meglynarion for Liturgy of St. Basil (Hymn to the Mother of God)**

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child – our God before the ages: He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

### **Communion Hymns**

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*)

Alleluia, 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 **are invited to 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.

### **On the Fragmentation of the Soul**

Created with a single, simple, and undivided consciousness, the fall shattered the integrity of the self into two conflicting activities, one drawn to divine realities, and the other dragged outward into the surface appearances of the visible world through sense perception and subject to a process of ongoing fragmentation. Having promised us a technological utopia, our ubiquitous and intrusive cyber culture has instead precipitated a spiritual crisis in which human experience has been systematically fragmented and the coherence of the self increasingly threatened. Living in a culture of organized distractions, our thoughts are isolated and disconnected, preventing us from seeing and experiencing the wholeness of life. Distraction and fragmentation have negative consequences for the organization of knowledge, they prevent us from engaging our spiritual depth, and render us incapable of engaging the spiritual depth of others, for having lost touch with our own personhood, we can receive neither the personhood of our neighbor nor God.

Archimandrite Maximos, Senior Research Scholar at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and monk of Simona Petra on Mt. Athos, from a conference on Digital Media and Orthodox Pastoral Care in Athens in May of 2015

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

You can access a complete calendar of services and other parish activities on our website: [www.stathanasius.org](http://www.stathanasius.org).

On the homepage, click on **VIEW CALENDAR** at the bottom left.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS to Noelle (Ballew) and Edgar Aviles** on the baptism of their son, Gabriel Mateo, last Saturday, February 17. Many years, also, to the proud grandparents, Richard and Lisa Ballew, and GREAT grandparents, Dn. John and Fay Young, and all of Gabriel's many aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family!

**LOTS OF NEW PHOTOS** have been posted to the parish website, including photos of our **30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** last year.

To access the photos, go to: <https://www.stathanasius.org/media/photo-gallery/>

### **ANNUNCIATION TEA FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

This year's Tea will be Saturday, March 24th at 10:30 a.m. Mother Paraskeva from St. Barbara Monastery will be our speaker that morning. More details to follow soon.

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN YOU MOVE OR CHANGE E-MAIL, CELL PHONE NUMBER OR LAND LINE NUMBER.**

**THE LENTEN SEMINAR IN MARCH IS CANCELLED.** We will have teachings on several Friday evenings during Lent after the Akathist service. More info to follow.

### **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY CELEBRATION WITH CENTRAL COAST PARISHES**

**TODAY** at 6:00 p.m., the Orthodox parishes of the Central Coast will gather for Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy, hosted by Annunciation OCA Parish in Santa Maria:

877 Francine Ln, Santa Maria, CA 93455. Please consider attending on behalf of our parish.

Directions:

Take the 101 Freeway North to Exit 167/Santa Maria Way.

Follow the exit under the freeway and stay on Santa Maria Way.

Turn left at the first light on S. Bradley Rd., and right on Francine Ln.

## ***CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK***

### **Birthdays**

2/25	Athanasia (Asia) Ballew
2/26	Anya Johnson
3/3	Mark Kern



**Understanding the Divine Liturgy;  
History, Meaning, Form & Function**

**An Excerpt from:  
“The Heavenly Banquet: Understanding the Divine Liturgy”  
By Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis**

The Divine Liturgy is the Mystery of union of human beings with God and the union of human beings among themselves. “It is called Communion because through it we commune the divinity of Jesus Christ” (St. John of Damascus) together with His glorified humanity. The purpose of the Divine Liturgy is to change the sacramental elements (bread and wine mixed with water) into the Sacred Body and Blood of the Lord through the action of the Holy Spirit so that the people of God gathered in His Name may commune them and thus be united with Christ and live His life.

This “divine and most sacred of services” constitutes the highest expression of praise, glorification, love and gratitude to God for His inexpressible love toward us. The people of God gather together in obedience to Christ’s command (“do this”) to offer their “sacrifice of praise” in thanksgiving, to actualize Christ’s saving acts, to commune His Sacred Mysteries, and to rejoice in partaking of His life now, in anticipation of that “day” when they will partake of Him “more perfectly” in the “unsetting day” of His Kingdom. (from the Easter Canon)

As it has been pointed out correctly, “The purpose of the Eucharist lies not in the change of the bread and wine, but in our partaking of Christ, who has become our food, our life, the manifestation of the Church as the Body of Christ.” (Fr. Alexander Schmemmann) Ultimately, the purpose of the Divine Eucharist is to lead the faithful to a transformation of their lives after the likeness of God—to salvation—which, in the Orthodox understanding, is union with God, which begins from this life and is fulfilled in the life to come.

Difficult as it might be, we should not fail to view the Divine Eucharist as a **meal**. The Lord instituted the Divine Mystery in the course of a meal; or rather it was part of a meal. ...The early Church celebrated the Lord’s supper at the end of a fellowship meal, called *Agape* (love). A characteristic element present in this fellowship meal was the joy and happiness experienced by the early Christians who “breaking bread in their homes,...partook of food with hearts full of gladness and simplicity (Acts 2:46). For the first Christians it was easy to connect the Eucharist meal with the repast they would enjoy with the Lord in the heavenly Kingdom. We too should experience the joy of partaking “the Lord’s Supper.”

A meal is a joyous event. A marriage supper is even merrier. But when the meal is one’s own wedding feast it is the most enjoyable meal in one’s life. The Lord compared the Kingdom of Heaven to a Great Banquet (Luke 14:16), even a marriage feast, in which the heavenly King’s son is married. The marriage is between the Son of God and each soul: “Christ is the Bridegroom, and the Church and the soul are the bride.” (St. Theophylact of Bulgaria) The guests are the righteous, who rejoice with their Groom, crying: “let us rejoice and exult and give Him glory, for the marriage feast of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready” (Rev. 19:7). Of this heavenly marriage feast the Divine Eucharist is a sign and an image. Yet it is more than just a figure or a symbol; it is the prefiguration and foretaste of the **heavenly Banquet**.

## TEEN SCENE

**Junior High teens meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
and High School teens meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
on Thursdays in the Teen Room at the church, unless noted otherwise.**

3/1/18 - Thursday Night Youth Group

3/8/18 - Thursday Night Youth Group

3/15/18 - Thursday Night Youth Group (Fire on Father)

3/22/18 - No Thursday Night Youth Group - Compline Service  
(then Burritos afterwards for anyone who wants to attend!)

3/29/18 - No Thursday Night Youth Group (Special Event Saturday)

3/31/18 (Saturday) - Lazarus Saturday (come help at work party!),  
7:30pm - 9:30pm Broomball after Vespers

## Great Lent 2018

### Special Services

Mondays	6:00 p.m.	Great Compline
Wednesdays	6:00 p.m.	Pre-sanctified Liturgy with Eucharist All will be at our church except for <b>Wed. 3/28, which will be at St. Barbara Greek Church</b>
Fridays	6:00 p.m.	Akathist , with the exception of Friday, March 30th, which will be the Canon of Lazarus
Thursday, March 22	6:00 p.m.	Compline with Canon of St. Andrew
Saturdays March 3, 10, 17	8:30 a.m.	Soul Liturgies

**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. Romanos (O.C.M.C. priest, Congo)  
Fr. Jon Braun  
Dn. Richard E.  
Kh. Diane C.  
Fr. Patrick and Vanessa K.  
Greg & Margaret Y.  
Hoppe Family  
Gail S.  
Dean & Penny B.  
Angelina, Jase & Alina S.  
Rich and Susan B.  
Duane F.  
Galina, Nikolai & Nataliya

Joan T.  
Bette Friesen & Family  
Ethan K.  
Tony C.  
Paul F. and Family  
Justin B.  
Fr. Anthony Y. and Family  
Tony E.  
Alma G.  
Guadalupe  
Phyllis M.  
John D.  
Fr. Wayne W. & Family  
Fr. Dimitrie V.  
Monsignor John Y.  
Antonio

Glenn R.  
Steve (Zach Brasel’s father)  
Gaylen C.  
Jean  
Zac B.  
Carla B.

Victims of Santa Barbara fires and mudslides  
All those suffering and in danger in Ukraine, Africa, and the Middle East

**For repose of the souls of:** Alyson, Dawn, Valentin, Tony M.

All who have died in the conflicts in Ukraine Africa & the Middle East

Those who lost their lives in the Santa Barbara fires and mudslides

**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 Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion).

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**ST. ATHANASIUS BOOK CENTER**

\* The church bookstore is located in the foyer of the fellowship hall - two enclosed cabinets containing items that are FOR SALE. One cabinet holds icons, crosses, incense, prayer ropes, etc. The bookshelf has books for sale, arranged alphabetically by book title. Children’s books are on the bottom shelf. 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 brown lockbox on wall next to Fr. Nicholas’ office. Make checks payable to St. Athanasius Book Center.. (The pamphlets in the rack are FREE, as are the 12-month liturgical calendars.)

**All proceeds go to the parish Building Fund.**

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RESTORATION OF THE ICONS

