



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

Dn. John Young (retired)

Subdeacons: Stephen Butler & Michael Easbey

Parish Council 2023-2024

Dominic Dopico, Chair

Kristin King, Vice Chair

Dan Braun, Treasurer

Velislava Nikolov, Secretary

Asia Ballew

Sydney Hedges

Michael Loulias

Cheryl Washburn-Lander

Music Director/Administrator:

Valerie Yova

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Teen Program Coordinator

Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

College/Young Adult Activities Coordinators

Athanasia Ballew

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DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, December 15, 2024

**Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria &
Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ**

Martyr Anthia, Mother of Eleutherios;

Venerable Paul of Latra



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**

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 Fa-
ther 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.

**AS THE CLERGY ENTER THE ALTAR
AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE,
WE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS FOR THE DAY:**

Troparion of the Resurrection

Tone 8

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 of the Forefathers

Tone 4

Through faith You justified the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.
These saints exult in glory,
for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:
she who bore You without seed.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Troparion for Hieromartyr Eleutherios

Tone 5

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes
and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood,
thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ;
hence never cease to intercede
or those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest,
thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.

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 Preparation of Christ's Nativity**Tone 3**

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

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
+Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Deacon: With strength!

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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

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

EPISTLE READING for St. Eleftherios**Timothy 1:8-18**

Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

Alleluia before the Gospel**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps. 98:6)

V. They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps. 98:6)

GOSPEL READING for the Forefathers

Luke 14:16-24

The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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 Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the Highest!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Holy Communion & The Thanksgiving Prayers

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 antidoron (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.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we offer **Thanksgiving Prayers** for having received the body and blood of Christ. These beautiful prayers help us to reflect on the mystery in which we have partaken and prepare us for our transition from the Kingdom back into “the world.” If you have partaken, stay to listen to these prayers after you have venerated the cross. Immediately after, the priest will bless the Agape Meal. **We ask that all your socializing take place outside of the church.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF ALL SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS at 12:15 p.m.

THE MONTHLY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF ST. JOHN FIRESIDE gathering will be THIS Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Fr. Symeon and Kh. Cayce Halsell. If you have questions, see Howard Lange.

PHYLLIS MORRISON has moved to Wood Glen Senior Living. If you would like to contact her, you can ask her family members or contact the church for her new address.

UPDATES ON THE SITUATION IN SYRIA

As the regime change situation in Syria develops the Patriarchate of Antioch is using its Facebook page to give official updates. These posts are being translated and kept updated on our Archdiocese website. You can stay updated with our Patriarchate's communications at this link: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2271>

College/Young Adult Ministry

Looking to get involved with our parish's Young Adult Ministry? Sign up using the QR code to stay updated on upcoming events and share your ideas for activities you'd like to see! Or use the following link: <https://bit.ly/YoungAdultSignup>

RESPONSES IN OTHER LANGUAGES

At the encouragement of His Eminence, Metropolitan Saba, during the Divine Liturgy Fr. Symeon is "giving the peace," in a variety of languages and the choir is responding to "Peace be to all," in the corresponding language with "And to thy spirit." These are the languages being rotated each week:

English

Arabic

Greek

Spanish

Slavonic

Romanian

Peace be to all.

As-sa-la-mu li-ja- í-kum.

E-ray-ney pasi.

La paz sea con vosotros.

Mir fs'em

Pace tuturor

And to thy spirit.

Wuh-li wou-ee-kah

Ke-to pnevmati-sou

Y con tú espíritu

i so dukhom tw-oim

Și duhului tău.

SPECIAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

Wednesday Dec. 18	Advent Paraklesis	6:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20	Divine Liturgy for St. John of Kronstadt and St. Ignatius of Antioch	8:30 a.m.

SERVICES FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Tuesday, Dec. 24	Royal Hours	9:00 a.m.
	Festal Matins/Liturgy	10:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 29	Blessing of the Graves, Goleta Cemetery	1:00 p.m.

OTHER UPCOMING FEASTS & SPECIAL SERVICES

Saturday, Dec. 28 at 5:30 pm Vespers	Commemoration of the Innocents slain by Herod and prayers for the souls of children who have died in childbirth, shortly after childbirth, or through abortion.	
Wednesday, Jan. 1	Divine Liturgy for Feasts of St. Basil & Circumcision of Christ	9:00 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 3	Royal Hours of Theophany "10th Day of Christmas" Family Night	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 4	Great Vespers of Theophany	5:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 5	Festal Matins & Liturgy of Theophany with Reception of Converts (Baptism/Chrismations)	9:00/10:00a.m.
	Outdoor Blessing of the Water & Dive for Cross at Harbor with St. Barbara Parish	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 18	Divine Liturgy for Feast of St. Athanasius followed by Chili Cookoff/Brunch	9:00 a.m.

PASTOR'S FUND REPORT **January-November 2024**

Pastor's Fund Income/Donations **\$23,735**
(includes \$6,100 donated for icon project & \$3,600
from General Operating Budget)

Pastor's Fund Expenses

Archdiocese Special Collections	\$ 1,000
Homeless Assistance	5,246
Local Charities/non-profits	1,692
Orthodox Charities	2,400
Assistance to Parishioners	7,533
Special Projects	5,896

\$23,767

FINANCIAL UPDATE **January-November, 2024**

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Budget Goal</u>
Tithes received in Nov.	\$ 70,263	\$ 57,417 (includes mortgage of \$ 20,555)
Tithes received Jan.-Nov.	\$ 605,126	\$631,587 (includes mortgage of \$226,105)
Nov. Temple donations	\$ 4,515	
Jan.-Nov. Temple donations	\$ 63,443	

Balance in Temple Fund Nov. 30, 2024 **\$ 933,591**
(includes proceeds from Golf Tournament)

Total expenses Jan– Nov.	\$ 731,258	(includes \$11,921 off-budget expenses for tree removal/trimming & patio umbrellas)
Total income Jan.– Nov.	\$ <u>704,659</u>	

DEFICIT Jan.-Nov. months: \$ 26,599 (This includes an unexpected extra \$10,000 in
salaries due to a change in the pay cycle, mandated by
State of CA. Not an actual added expense, just a
reporting issue for this fiscal year.)

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Birthdays

12/17 Jon King
12/18 Dorothy Alexander

Patron Saint Commemorations

12/15 Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

King David	David Dillon, Jon King, David Lewis, David McCalmont, David Washburn, Jared Speier
Daniel the Prophet	Dan Braun, Garrett Gish, Jase Daniel Speier
Jacob	Jacob Palmer
Jesse	Jesse Palmer
Rebekah	Rebekah Dillon
Ruth	Taylor Eberhard, Liz Hoppe, Fay Young
Judith	Judy Braun
Aaron	Howard Lange

12/17 St. Miriam	Miriam Vander Laan
12/18 St. Zoe of Rome	Zoe Macdonald
12/20 St. John of Kronstadt	Jill Wallerstedt



CSNU



**JANUARY 2ND-5TH, 2025
AT CAMP ST. NICHOLAS**

WHAT? A college-aged retreat that creates a Christ-centered community, aimed at growing in faith, relationships, and careers. This will include meals, games & activities, sessions led by speakers, and a night of dinner & dancing!

WHO? All college-aged adults are welcome!

COST? \$200

THEME AND SESSIONS

Our theme this year is **Wrestle with God**
We will have 4 sessions over the weekend:

- Wrestling Compassion
- Wrestling Faith
- Wrestling Forgiveness
- Wrestling Humility



REGISTER
HERE:



Check in will be from 5-6:30pm on
Thursday, Jan 2 at 11770 Frontier Rd,
Frazier Park, CA 93225! See you there!

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. Mathias in Tanzania (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.
Bob N.
Kh. Melissa H.
Jeremiah & Sarah H. (military)
Lauren & Fernando J. (military)
Chase K. (military)
Nick & Kristine J. (military)
Connor V. (military)
Julianna & Zaron D. (military)

P. Speier (military)
Subdn. Matthew & Christina
Steve T.
Temmo K.
Dn. John & Fay Y.
Samantha & Chris N. & Family
Wade
Kh. Peggy K.
Amanda, Chris & Baby James
Kh. Janet Henderson
Phyllis M.
Marta C.
Sonia T.
Jon R.
Penny B.
Eden Rose
Suzanne 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:

Karti Adimulam
Kevin Duke
Greg & Miki Hammel
Isaak Lau
Brennan Pawley
Ethan Salcedo
Logan Strait

For repose of the souls of: Craig W., Fr. John

ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH BOOKSTORE

The church bookstore is located in the foyer of our building. The tables and two enclosed cabinets contain 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. **You can contact Terri at: bookstore@stathanasius.org.**

Payment should be made at time of purchase and placed in the brown lockbox on wall next to Fr. Symeon's office. Make checks payable to **S.A.O.C. 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, December 15

9:00 a.m. Matins & Catechesis for ages 3yrs—6th gr.
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
 11:30 a.m. Teen Education
 11:45 a.m. Agape Meal
 12:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
 12:15 p.m. Greeters Meeting
 5:00 p.m. Young Adult/College White Elephant
 Gift Exchange & Lenten Dinner

Monday, December 16

7:00 a.m. Daily Reader's Matins
 3:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom

Tuesday, December 17

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Daily Reader's Matins
 11:50 a.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry in the chapel
 6:00 p.m. Advent Paraklesis

Thursday, December 19-NO YOUTH GROUP

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

Friday, December 20

7:00 a.m. Daily Matins (with a priest)
 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy (St. John of Kronstadt and
 St. Ignatius of Antioch)

Saturday, December 21

5:30 p.m. Great Vespers/Confessions

Sunday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Matins & Catechesis for ages 3yrs—6th gr.
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
 11:30 a.m. Teen Education
 11:45 a.m. Agape Meal
 12:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

December 15 Fr. Nicholas
 December 22 Dn. G. Braun
 December 24 Kern
 December 29 Jacobs
 January 5 Hoppe

READERS

December 15 Kern
 December 22 Kern
 December 24 Gish
 December 29 Lange
 January 5 TBA

GREETERS

December 15 K.P. King
 December 22 M. Loulias
 December 29 H. Lange
 January 5 TBA

USHERS

December 15 D. Meyer/M. Loulias
 December 22 S. Speier/C. Speier
 December 29 D. Alexander/D. Washburn
 January 5 P. King/J. King

AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

December 15 Team Hedges
 December 22 Team Gish
 December 29 Team Speier
 January 5 Beverages Only
 Outdoor Blessing of Water at 1pm

Make Everyone Count!

Point In Time Count 2025

Wed, January 22, 2025

5:30am - 9:00am



SPONSORED BY



countyofsb.pointintime.info

SIGN UP NOW

Spanish training available on request;
email pit@sbact.org

Your help is important.
Help us spread the word and sign
up today!

The Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC), in partnership with the County of Santa Barbara and The Santa Barbara Alliance for Community Transformation (SBACT), invites volunteers to participate in the countywide 2025 Homeless Point-In-Time Count from 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, January 22, 2024**. The Point-In-Time Count is the annual count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness on a given day.

Teams of volunteers will canvas assigned routes throughout Santa Barbara County and will briefly document who is experiencing homelessness. This information is used to plan local homeless assistance systems, justify funding, and raise public awareness.

All volunteers are required to attend a training session. In this 1-hour session, volunteers will learn more about the importance of the count, review canvassing best practices, explore the Point-In-Time survey tool, FAQs and more. To make this training as accessible as possible, online trainings are offered on varied days and times between January 14th and 17th.

Volunteers are critical to our success!

To volunteer, please register at <https://countyofsb.pointintime.info/>
Volunteers can register as individuals or in teams.