



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

Office phone: 805-685-5400

email: office@stathanasius.org

Teen Program Coordinator

Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

College/Young Adult Activities Coordinators

Athanasia Ballew

asiaballew@proton.me

Zac Wood

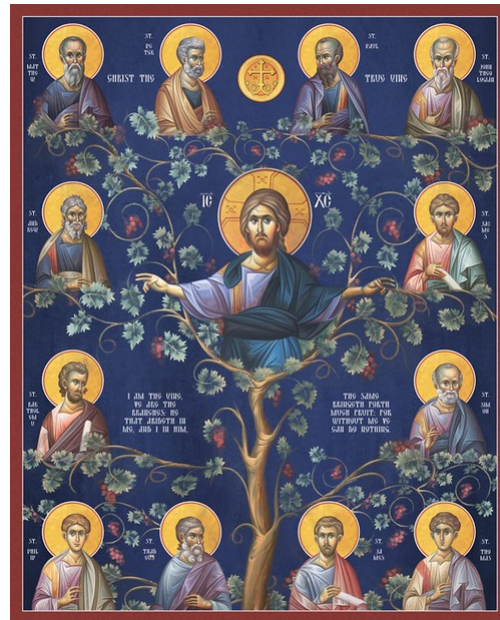
zac.wood9@gmail.com

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, December 22, 2024

**Tone 1 / Eothinon 4; Forefeast of &
Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
(The Genealogy)**

Great-martyr Anastasia — the deliverer from potions
and her teacher the Martyr Chrysogonos



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 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews,
and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst arise on the third day,
O Savior, granting life to the world.
For which cause the heavenly pow'rs
cried aloud unto Thee, O Giver of life;
Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy kingdom!
Glory to Thy providence, O Thou
Who alone art the lover of mankind.

Troparion for the Forefeast of the Nativity

Tone 4

Be prepared, O Bethlehem, Eden opens now to all;
O Ephratha ready make: for within the stable cave,
From the Virgin Mary pure, the tree of life has blossomed forth.
For her womb is shown to be paradise in spirit;
in which is the plant divine from which having truly fed,
we will live forevermore, and not die as Adam did.
Christ the Lord is born to raise the image that had fallen long before.

Troparion for the Sunday Before the Nativity

Tone 2

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!

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 8**

Chanter: 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**Hebrew 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 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.

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!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

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

THERE ARE NO SUNDAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES TODAY OR NEXT SUNDAY, Dec. 29th.

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>**

WE WILL BLESS ALL OF THE VEHICLES IN THE PARKING LOT ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

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>

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 memorial 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	(Our celebration of Theophany will be transferred to Jan. 5th.) Festal Matins & Liturgy of Theophany 9:00/10:00a.m. with Reception of Converts (Baptism/Chrismations) Outdoor Blessing of the Water 1:00 p.m. & Dive for Cross at Harbor with St. Barbara Parish	
Sunday, Jan. 12	BLESSING OF ALL VEHICLES	At end of Liturgy
Saturday, Jan. 18	Divine Liturgy for Feast of St. Athanasius followed by Chili Cookoff/Brunch	9:00 a.m.

ADULT CATECHISM SCHEDULE

WINTER 2024

Saturdays from 3-5 p.m.

January 11 - Session 1

“The Life in Christ by Faith: The Trinity,
Apostolic Tradition, and Scripture”

January 18 - Session 2

“A Life of Repentance and Holiness”

January 25 - Session 3

“The Realm of Redemption:
The Church and Its Sacraments”

February 1 - Session 4

“Seeing and Living in the Beauty, Truth and Wisdom of God”

February 8 - Session 5

“The Age to Come: The Second Coming and the Saints”

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. \$ 704,659

DEFICIT Jan.-Nov.: **\$ 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

Wedding Anniversaries

12/27 Fr. Symeon & Kh.Cayce-Marie Halsell

Birthdays

12/22 Gary Braun III, Zoe Macdonald, Alexander Nikolov, Zachary Nikolov

12/24 Jared Speier


12/25 Andriy Moskalyk

12/26 Jerry Jones

Patronal Feast Days

12/22 **Great Martyr Anastasia** Anastasia Brunner

12/27 **Protomarty Stephen** Subdn. Stephen Butler, Steve Thomas



On the TENTH Day of Christmas, our Family Night will be...
10 Come celebrate with your Church Family! **10**

SAVE THE DATE:
Friday, January 3, 2025 at 6pm

If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument,
please consider putting something together for the show!

Contact Jan Speier or Mary Penny for more information.

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.
Jen H.

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 22

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

9:00 a.m.	Matins
10:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m.	Teen Education
11:45 a.m.	Agape Meal
12:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 23

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

Tuesday, December 24—EVE OF NATIVITY

9:00 a.m.	Royal Hours of Nativity of Christ
10:00 p.m.	Matins & Liturgy of Nativity of Christ

Wednesday, December 25

NO SERVICES

Thursday, December 26

7:45 a.m.	St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom
10:00 a.m.	Showers of Blessing
5:30 p.m.	Daily Vespers

Friday, December 27

7:00 a.m.	Daily Matins (with a priest)
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Saturday, December 28

Commemoration of the Infants slain by Herod

5:30 p.m.	Great Vespers/Confessions and memorial for infants who have died in childbirth or shortly following birth, or who have been aborted.
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Sunday, December 29

NO SUNDAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

10:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m.	Teen Education
11:45 a.m.	Agape Meal
1:00 p.m.	Blessing of the Graves at Goleta Cemetery

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

December 22	Dn. G. Braun
December 24	Kern
December 29	Jacobs
January 5	Hoppe
January 12	Dillon

READERS

December 22	Kern
December 24	Gish
December 29	Lange
January 1	Alexander
January 3	All readers available (Royal Hours)
January 4	Alexander (Vespers of Theophany)
January 5	Butler
January 12	Meyer

GREETERS

December 22	M. Loulias/H. Lange
December 29	J. & M. Worthington
January 5	A. Ballew/N. Aviles
January 12	G. Hoppe/B. Eberhard

USHERS

December 22	S. Speier/C. Speier
December 29	D. Alexander/D. Washburn
January 5	P. King/J. King
January 12	K.L. King/D. Meyer

AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

December 22	Team Gish
December 29	Team Speier
January 5	Beverages Only
	Outdoor Blessing of Water at 1pm
January 12	McIntire (Ethiopian Cuisine)

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	Peace be to all.	And to thy spirit.
Arabic	As-sa-la-mu li-ja- í-kum.	Wuh-li wou-ee-kah
Greek	E-ray-ney pasi.	Ke-to pnevmati-sou
Spanish	La paz sea con vosotros.	Y con tú espíritu
Slavonic	Mir fs'em	i so dukhom tw-oim
Romanian	Pace tuturor	Și duhului tău.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU....

- **To all who donated jackets and hoodies** for our Showers of Blessing Christmas celebration. Many of our guests were in need of something to help stay warm in these cooler months! They were most appreciative.
- Speaking of keeping warm...thank you to Tyler Speier Events and Terri Speier for a donation of 30 blankets that we will be able to continue to distribute to Shower guests, as needed, throughout the winter.
- Thank you to our team who set up, cooked, served, and cleaned up for our Showers of Blessing Christmas brunch this past Thursday. Special thanks to: Fr. Nicholas, Carla Brunstead, Duane Franzen, Kh. Cayce-Marie Halsell, Jeff Petersilia, Kyle Petersilia, Suzanne Saunders, Jan Speier, Terri Speier, and Kate Vander Laan and Valerie Yova!

