



## 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](mailto: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 (retired)

Dn. John Young (retired)

**Subdeacons:** Stephen Butler & Michael Easbey

**Parish Council 2025-2026**

Cheryl Washburn-Lander, President

Kristin King, Vice President

Velislava Nikolov, Secretary

Dan Braun, Treasurer

Asia Ballew

Peter Braun

Sydney Hedges

Jared Speier

**Music Director/Administrator:**

Valerie Yova

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**Teen Program Coordinator**

Subdn. Michael Easbey: [measbey@gmail.com](mailto:measbey@gmail.com)

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Athanasia Ballew

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## DIVINE LITURGY OF

### ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Tone 4 / Eothinon 7

After-feast of & Sunday  
after the Nativity of Christ

Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed,  
David the Prophet and King, and James the Brother of God



## 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**

**GREAT LITANY**

**First Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Ps. 111)**

Verse: I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known. In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord!

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

Verse: They are sought out according to His will. Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. **[Refrain]**

Verse: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **[Refrain]**

**Second Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Ps. 112)**

Verse: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

**Refrain:** **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Verse: Glory and wealth are in his house and his righteousness endures forever. **Refrain]**

Verse: Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous. **[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 for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ** (*Ps. 110*)

**Chanter:** The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.”

**Refrain:** **TROPARION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST:**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,  
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,  
were taught by a star to adore Thee,  
the Sun of righteousness,  
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

**Chanter:** The Lord will send Thee the scepter of power from Zion: “Rule in the midst of Thine enemies.” **Refrain:** **Thy nativity, O Christ our God...**

**Chanter:** With Thee is dominion on the day of Thy birth, in the radiance of holiness. **Refrain:** **Thy nativity, O Christ our God...**

**HYMNS SUNG AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:**

**Troparion of the Resurrection**

**Tone 4**

Having learned the joyful message  
of the Resurrection from the angel,  
the women disciples of the Lord cast from them  
their parental condemnation,  
and proudly broke the news to the disciples  
saying death has been spoiled.  
Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

**Troparion of the Nativity of Christ**

**Tone 4**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,  
hath given rise to the Light of knowledge in the world,  
for they who did worship the stars  
did learn from them to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice,  
and to know that Thou didst come from the east of the Highest.  
Glory to Thee O Lord!

**Troparion for Sunday after Nativity of Christ**

**Tone 2**

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,  
to David, the ancestor of God;  
You saw a Virgin great with child;  
You gave glory with the shepherds;  
You worshipped with the Magi;  
You received the news from the Angel.  
Pray to Christ God to 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 of the Nativity of Christ****Fr. J. Finley**

Today the Virgin bears the One, above all being, God the Son;  
And earth presents a cave to Him whom none can touch in Bethlehem.  
The angels with the shepherds sing, And glory to the Savior bring;  
The Magi journey from afar, Their journey guided by a star.  
For unto us is born a Child, From Mary, Virgin Mother mild;  
The pre-eternal God of all, Who comes to us to save our souls!

**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.

**Prokeimenon—Preparatory Psalm Verses before the Epistle****Tone 4**

God is wonderful in His Saints, the God of Israel.

**Verse:** In the churches bless ye God the Lord, from the  
Fountains of Israel.

**EPISTLE READING**  
**Galatians.1:11-19**

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

**Preparatory Psalm Verses with Alleluia Refrain Before the Gospel** Tone 2  
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**  
**Matthew 2:13-23**

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him.” And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called My Son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.” But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

**Meglynarion for the Feast of the Nativity—Hymn to the Mother of God**

O my soul, magnify her who is more hon’able and who is more glorious than the heav’ly host. A mystery I behold which is strange and wondrous, the cave is heav’n, and the virgin is the throne of the Cherubim, in the confines of the manger is laid the infinite, Christ our god, whom we praise and magnify.

**Communion of the Clergy**

The Lord has sent redemption to His people, Alleluia!

**Holy Communion**

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 anti-doron (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.

## **PRAXIS** **How we practice our Faith — Some Reminders**

### **The Sacred Space of the Nave is set apart and we enter it as ones set apart.**

When we are preparing to come to Church, we should put in the effort to honor God with our appearance and with our actions. What we wear influences our own attitude and the attention of others. Out of Christian charity we need to pay attention to this.

The Temple is not a place you should treat like any other. When you enter, pay attention to how you enter, how you act, what you speak, and even what you wear in this space. It is the house of God you are entering; it is the place where God comes to give Himself to you and where we gather to experience Him with all our senses; it is a place where we most especially strive to give Him all our focus. So let us help one another to give undivided attention to the Lord.

Reserve conversation that is merely social or political for outside the church, and limit even spiritual conversation for outside of the services. When you enter, know that you come before the Throne of God and the place of the sacrificial offering. Cease speaking of things of the world and reserve your speech for the holy words of the services, at the appropriate times. Let us pay a little more attention for the sake of the love of God and neighbor to enter with this kind of attentiveness. Let us reserve it as the most special place that it is.

Our God invites us to His Heavenly Banquet, and we should come acknowledging this fearsome honor in our appearance. However, He does not desire finery, but He desires our attention in prayer and worship and loves when we aid others in giving their attention to Him; this is what the Church calls modesty (Mt 22:1-14, 25:1-13; Is 61:10; I Pt 3:3-4; I Tim 2:8-10; Rev 16:15, 19:8). So, we should come dressed with honorable modesty as men and women, boys and girls, not drawing attention to ourselves, and in doing so helping others give attentive prayers to God.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE** **November, 2025**

#### **Actual Income      Budget Goal**

Tithes received in Nov.	\$ 72,209	\$ 56,293 (includes \$20,555 for mortgage)
Tithes received Jan.-Nov.	585,334	619,223 (includes \$205,550 for mortgage)

Total Operating Expenses January-November, 2025	\$ 726,572
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Total income January-November, 2025	<u>725,037</u>
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<b>DEFICIT for the first 11 months:</b>	<b>\$ 1,535</b>
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Temple donations in Nov. 2025	\$ 5,430
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Temple Fund donations Jan-Nov., 2025	\$ 63,984
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Temple Fund Balance year-to-date:	\$ 1,054.897 Reserved for Building Project
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#### **GOLF TOURNAMENT PROCEEDS: \$132,285**

**(15% of the proceeds will go towards building improvements.**

**The remainder goes directly to the Temple Fund.)**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TO READ MET. SABA's Nativity message: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2688>**

**THERE WILL BE NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES TODAY FOR THE CHILDREN OR TEENS, AND NO ADULT CATECHISM.**

**TODAY WE WILL BLESS THE GRAVES** of our parish members and their loved ones at GOLETA CEMETERY around 1:00 p.m.

**LITURGICAL CALENDARS FOR 2026 ARE AVAILABLE IN THE HALLWAY.** The cost of the calendars has gone up this year to \$3 per calendar. A small donation to cover your calendar is welcome and can be put in the TITHE BOX or made online through the website. Thank you!

**JOIN US THIS FRIDAY, JANUARY 2nd at 6:00 p.m. for our “Ninth Day of Christmas Family Night.”** The evening will include music, an “open mic” for those who have a song, poem, or other talent to share, and holiday refreshments. If you would like to participate in the program that night, contact Kh. Jan Speier.

### **REGARDING 2025 TITHES...**

The church will accept tithes and donations for the 2025 fiscal year up through Sunday, January 4th. Please be sure to date checks these next two Sundays for the year for which they are intended. Checks received after January 4th will be automatically credited towards 2026, regardless of what date is on them. Donations made online on the parish website are entered as the date of the transaction, unless noted otherwise in the memo section. Year-end statements for tax return purposes are sent out by E-MAIL by February 1st.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**REVISTING OUR MISSION, VISION,  
GOALS & PRIORITIES**

**—A group discussion for active parish members—**

**January 24, 2026**

**9:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.**

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**ALL-PARISH MEETING**

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**

**After Agape Meal**

**Updates on Parish Ministries & on the Land Development**

## UPCOMING FEAST DAYS & SPECIAL SERVICES

Sun., 12/28	Blessing of the Graves at Goleta Cemetery		1:00 PM
Thurs., 1/1	<b>FEASTS OF ST. BASIL/CIRCUMCISION</b>	Liturgy	9:00 AM
Fri. 1/2	“Ninth Day of Christmas” Family Night		6:00 PM
Mon., 1/5	<b>PARAMON OF THEOPHANY</b> <b>GREAT &amp; HOLY THEOPHANY</b>	Royal Hours Festal Matins Festal Liturgy	9:00 AM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM
	<p><i>The Great Blessing of the Waters will be during Matins. The Baptism and Chrismation of Converts will be during the Divine Liturgy. Resume regular fasting times on January 7.</i></p>		
Sunday, 1/11	OUTDOOR BLESSING OF THE OCEAN at the Santa Barbara Harbor & Yacht Club with St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church 130 Harbor Way off of Shoreline Dr. in Santa Barbara		1:00 PM
Sunday, 1/18	PATRONAL FEAST OF ST. ATHANASIUS		Regular weekend service times
Sunday, 2/1	<b>PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD</b> transferred from 2/2 <i>also, Publican &amp; Pharisee Sunday</i>		Regular weekend service times

### \*\*\*\*\* **CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK**

#### **Wedding Anniversaries**

12/31 Penny and Michael Loulias

#### **Birthdays**

12/29 Gabriel Aviles, Karen Jacobs, Ruslan Moskalyk  
1/1 Nikolay Nikolov

#### **Patronal Feast Days**

**December 28 — Sunday after the Nativity of Christ**

**St. Joseph the Betrothed** Dn. Scott Jacobs, Gage Salinas

#### **King David**

David Dillon, Jon King, David Lewis, David McCalmont, Jared Speier, David Washburn

#### **St. James, the Brother of Jesus**

Richard Barre, Jim Morrison

1/1 **St. Emelia**

Emilia Rose Macdonald

1/1 **St. Gregory of Nazianzus, the Elder**

Glenn Hoppe

1/2 **St. Juliana of Lazarevo**

Juliet Macdonald

1/2 **St. Seraphim of Sorov**

Natasha Carr

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In 2026, we will be supporting the ministry of Fr. James Igetei in Nigeria through the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's "Support a Mission Priest" program with a monthly donation of \$50 from our general operating budget.



## JAMES IGETEI

### SAMP PRIEST SERVING IN NIGERIA

Fr. James Igetei was born on November 12, 1980 into an Orthodox family. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2014. He currently serves two parishes, St. Luke in Benin City and St. Irene in Port-Harcourt.

The establishment of an indigenous Orthodox Church in west central Africa is a recent phenomenon of the last four decades. Greeks, Bulgarians, Russians, and Ethiopians lived throughout Nigeria, but had not established an outreach to the Nigerian people. A Nigerian Calvary Grace Church comprised of many congregations began corresponding with, and then joined, a non-canonical "orthodox catholic" church in the United States. During this time, a Nigerian chief, Dr. Illikannu, was searching for the original Church and, in doing so, began corresponding with the Patriarchate of Alexandria. Dr. Illikannu was instrumental in uniting the splinter groups by 1983 with the desire of joining the original, historical Orthodox Church.

The years between 1985 and 1992 were rocky years for the new Orthodox churches, yet it was during this time that men's and women's groups and youth groups were being formed, and the communities were growing. By the beginning of 1988, the Orthodox in Nigeria had 12 priests and 6 deacons, with 12 parishes and numerous mission stations.

In 1997, a new diocese of Nigeria was established by the holy Patriarchal Synod, and His Eminence ALEXANDER was appointed the first bishop. Two years later, in May 1999, the diocese opened the St. Anthony School in Lagos, a small seminary for the education of catechists and candidates for the priesthood. In 2004, the diocese was expanded to become an archdiocese. His Eminence fell asleep in the Lord in 2023. In February 2024, His Eminence NIKODIMOS was elected the new Metropolitan of Nigeria. His Eminence grew up in Germany and has served the Patriarchate of Alexandria since 2015, including 4 years in South Africa.

1-877-463-6784

SAMP@ocmc.org

www.ocmc.org/SAMP

## 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](mailto: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. James in Nigeria (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.  
Kh. Melissa H.  
Jeremiah & Sarah H. (military)  
Chase K. (military)  
Nick & Kristine J. (military)  
Julianna & Zaron D. (military)  
P. Speier (military)

Steve T.  
Dn. John & Fay Y.  
Kh. Peggy K.  
Kh. Janet Henderson  
Phyllis M.  
Fr. Joseph A.  
Galeyna T.  
Jill W. and Family  
Shirley D. and Family  
Penny B.  
Justin & Amber B.  
Cameron B.  
Kh. Elizabeth S.  
Zosimos S.  
Oleg  
Alla  
Robin

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:

Cameron Clouse  
Travis & Christin Collins & Caleb  
Tanner Diamond  
Joshua Dunford  
Macario Gonzalez  
Kartik Kommu  
Blake Manning, Gia & Benjamin  
Sahit Rampilla  
Tyler Vrem  
Joshua Weiss (currently lives abroad)  
Martin Wilson  
Nathan Wright, Owain & Gavin

### For repose of the souls of:

## ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH BOOKSTORE

- \* The church bookstore is located in the foyer of our building. The tables and cabinets contain items that are **FOR SALE**. If you need a cross or chain and jewelry is not displayed on Sunday, contact **Terri Speier** at: [bookstore@stathanasius.org](mailto:bookstore@stathanasius.org).
- \* Payment should be made at the time of purchase. Cash and checks may be placed in the brown lockbox on wall next to Fr. Symeon's office. Make checks payable to **S.A.O.C. Bookstore**.
- \* Online payment can be made at [www.stathanasius.org](http://www.stathanasius.org). (Select "MAKE A DONATION," and then use the dropdown earmark for **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 28

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES TODAY  
NO ADULT CATECHISM  
9:00 a.m. Matins  
10:00 a.m. Liturgy  
11:45 a.m. Agape Meal  
1:00 p.m. **BLESSING OF GRAVES**

### Monday, December 29

7:00 a.m. Daily Readers Matins  
3:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom  
(Akathist for St. Nikiforos)

### Tuesday, December 30

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

### Wednesday, December 31

7:00 a.m. Daily Readers Matins  
11:55 a.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry

### Thursday, January 1

9:00 a.m. Liturgy for Feasts of Christ's Circumcision  
and St. Basil the Great

**NO DAILY VESPERS**

**NO SHOWERS OF BLESSING**

### Friday, January 2—ST. SERAPHIM OF SAROV

7:00 a.m. Daily Matins  
6:00 p.m. "Ninth Day of Christmas" Family Night

### Saturday, January 3

5:30 p.m. Great Vespers/Confessions

### Sunday, January 4

9:00 a.m. Religious Ed. for ages 3 yrs—Grade 6  
9:00 a.m. Matins  
10:00 a.m. Liturgy  
11:30 a.m. Teen Education  
11:45 a.m. Agape Meal  
12:20 p.m. Choir Rehearsal  
12:45 p.m. Adult Catechism

## THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS!

### EUCARIST BREAD

December 28	Vander Laan
January 4	Frangos
January 11	Meyer
January 18	Morrison

### READERS

December 28	Meyer
January 4	TBA
January 11	TBA
January 18	TBA

### WELCOME MINISTRY

December 28	M. Wayne/K.L. King
January 4	A.G. Salinas/C. Clements
January 11	G. Hoppe/B. Eberhard
January 18	L. Baker/K.P. King

### USHERS

December 28	D. Meyer/M. Loulias
January 4	P. King/J. King
January 11	S. Speier/C. Speier
January 18	D. Washburn/D. Alexander

### AGAPE MEAL HOSTS

December 28	Team Lander
January 4	Team Speier
January 11	Simple Coffee Hour
January 18	OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER Team Halsell

### WE NEED YOUR HELP...

We ask that you kindly clean up your own sitting area and return service booklets at the end of each service. Weekly bulletins and Matins/Vespers weekly handouts may be taken home. **Thank you!**

## **HONORING OUR PARISH ELDERS**

### **HAPPY 91st BIRTHDAY AND MANY YEARS to Jerry Jones!**

Jerry Jones was born in Missouri on December 26, 1934. Before the onset of WWII, his family moved across the Mississippi River and settled in Quincy, Illinois, where Jerry attended high school and graduated in 1952. He then began his academic training at Wheaton College. Jerry and his wife, Judy, married young, and he served in the Army in Germany after they were married.

He earned several academic degrees in the 1960s and pursued a PhD in Communications at Kent State University in the early 1970s. He eventually taught Communications at a small Bible college (Northwestern State) in Minnesota.

The Joneses moved to the North Country of Minnesota in the 1970s with their only child, Rick, and this was their home until Judy died in 2014. Jerry came to Santa Barbara in 2016 to be near his son and daughter-in-law, who were both Westmont College graduates and never left the South Coast.

In the early 1990s, the Holy Spirit moved Jerry to inquire into Eastern Orthodox Christianity and he was chrismated in 1995 in a parish in Minneapolis. He's been attached to St. Athanasius parish since coming here in 2016.

Jerry lives at Friendship Manor in Isla Vista, very near to where our original St. Athanasius Church building was. He served for several years as a faithful volunteer for our Showers of Blessing hospitality team on Thursday mornings. Jerry has been a faithful attendee of the liturgical services in our parish from the day he arrived here. We thank God for his regular presence as a model of steadfastness and perseverance in the face of the kinds of losses and challenges that life presents to all of us.

We love you, Jerry!

