

St. Athanasius Antiochian Orthodox Church

300 Sumida Gardens Lane Santa Barbara, CA 93111 **Office hours:** Tues-Fri. 12:00—5:00 p.m.

Senior Pastor:

Fr. Nicholas Speier 805-685-5495 frnicholas@stathanasius.org

Assistant Pastors:

Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges 805-968-1903 Fr. John Carrillo 805-968-2448 Fr. Jon Braun, Attached Priest (retired) Fr. John Finley, Attached Priest

Deacons:

Dn. Gary Braun Dn. Scott Jacobs Dn. Richard Easbey Dn. John Young

Music Director/Administrator:

Valerie Yova Office phone: 805-685-5400 email: office@stathanasius.org

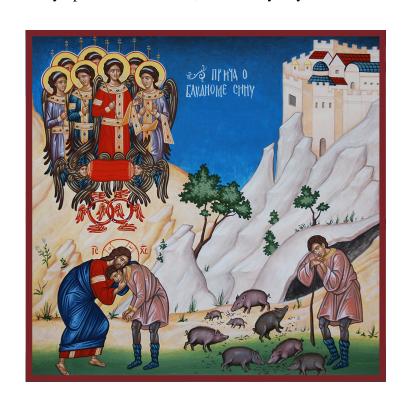
Parish Council:

Douglas Meyer, President
Dan Braun, Treasurer
Katie AbuGhazaleh, Secretary
Richard Barre
Catherine Braun
Dottie Genatone
Benjamin Hedges
Karen Jacobs
Dr. Jon King

LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, February 28, 2016 Tone 6 / Eothinon 6 Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Venerable Basil the Confessor, Companion of Prokopios of Decapolis; Hieromartyr Proterios, Archbishop of Alexandria; Righteous Kyra and Marana of Beroea in Syria; Apostles Nymphas and Euvoulos; New-martyr Kyranna of Thessalonica



WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

We are glad you are with us this morning.
If you are not Orthodox, we invite you to
partake of the blessed bread during
Communion and to join us at Coffee Hour ~
we'd love to meet you!

Calendar for this Week

Sunday, February 28-PRODIGAL SON

9:00 a.m. Religious Education ages 6-18

9:00 a.m. Matins

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

Monday, February 29

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins

4:30 p.m. Outreach Meal at St. Michaels'

University Church in Isla Vista

Tuesday, March 1-NO DAILY VESPERS

3:30 p.m. Catechesis Level I 7:00 p.m. Women's Book Study

Wednesday, March 2

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins

11:00 a.m. Shower Truck Ministry12:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Group

at Carrillo Residence

Thursday, March 3

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 4

6:45 a.m. Daily Matins

Saturday, March 5

8:30 a.m. Liturgy for All Souls

4:00 p.m. Central Coast Inter-Orthodox

Choir Rehearsal at S.A.O.C.

4:30 p.m. Adult Catechism

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers/Confessions

Sunday, March 6—Meatfare Sunday

9:00 a.m. Religious Education ages 6-18

9:00 a.m. Matins

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:45 a.m. Meatfare BBQ at the church 3:00 p.m. Premiere of Steven Butler's

"The St. Nicholas Oratorio" at

First Presbyterian Church

Fr. Nicholas will be out of the country from Monday, February 22 through Wednesday, March 2. Please hold all phone calls, e-mails and text messages until he returns. In the event of an emergency, please contact Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges or Fr. John Carrillo.

Valerie is in Orinda, CA this weekend teaching at the West Coast Sacred Music Institute of the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Sunday Morning Ministries Schedule

Eucharist Bread

February 28	Dillon
March 6	Meyer
March 13	Tinyayeva
March 20	Thomas

Coffee Hour

February 28 S. & T. Speier

March 6 MEAT FARE PICNIC AT THE

CHURCH

March 13 Project Mexico Cheesefare

Fundraiser

March 20 ???

Greeters

February 28 P. Morrison/D. Genatone

March 6 K. Fox/H. Lange

March 13 D. Washburn/D. Lewis

March 20 K. & L. Jacobs

Ushers

February 28
C. Speier, J. King, D. Washburn
March 6
G. Shannon, S. Speier, P. Brunner
P. King, D. Meyer, R. Barre
March 20
D. Lewis, C. Speier, J. King

Readers

February 28 D. Meyer

March 5 D. Alexander (Soul Liturgy)

March 6 D. Washburn

March 13 T. Harris

March 13 P. Braun (Forgiveness Vespers)
March 16 V. Gish (Presanctified Liturgy)

March 20 R. Barre

AT THE END OF THE MATINS SERVICE, WE SING THE GREAT DOXOLOGY. ("Glory to You, Who have shown us the light...") followed by the Matins Dismissal Troparion. Complete text is in front of Liturgy book.

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE GREAT LITANY

FIRST ANTIPHON—Psalm verses with refrain

Vs. It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High; To proclaim Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. [Refrain]

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

- Vs. Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. [Refrain]
- Vs. Glory...now & ever...Amen. [Refrain]

SECOND ANTIPHON—Psalm verses with refrain

Vs. The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength and hath girded Himself.

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

- Vs. For He hath established the world which shall not be shaken. [Refrain]
- Vs. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore. [Refrain]

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Only Begotten Son and immortal Word of God who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, who without change didst become man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON—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.

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

Troparion of the Resurrection (Music on p. 49 of Liturgy book)

When Mary stood at Thy grave looking for Thy sacred body, angelic pow'rs shone above Thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men.

Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted there-by,

Thou did meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world.

O Thou Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 6 Byzantine melody harmonized by Fr. J. Finley

Tone 3 Byzantine melody harmonized by Fr. J. Finley

Kontakion for the Prodigal Son

Tone 3 (Slavic Chant)

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O <u>Fa</u>ther; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You <u>gave</u> me. And now I cry to You as the <u>Prodigal</u>: "I have sinned before You, O merciful <u>Fa</u>ther; receive me a <u>pen</u>itent, and make me as <u>one</u> of Your <u>hired servants!"</u>

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.

Preparatory Psalm Verses before the Epistle (Prokeimenon) (Page 61 of Liturgy Book)

Tone 6

O Lord save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. (PS 27/28:9))

Verse: To Thee will I cry, O Lord, O my God, do not be silent unto me. (PS 27/28:1)

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

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

Vs. 1 He Who dwelleth in the help of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the protection of the God of Heaven. (Ps 90/91:1) Alleluia

Vs. 2 He will say to the Lord, Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God, in Him will I hope. (*Ps 90/91:2*) **Alleluia**

GOSPEL READING Luke (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants." And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

LITURGY OF THE FAITHFUL

Meglynarion (Hymn to the Mother of God)

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

Communion of the Clergy (Liturgy Book page 32)

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)

HOLY COMMUNION

In the Orthodox Church, the sacrament of Communion is offered only to Christians who are baptized in the name of the Trinity and chrismated into the Orthodox Faith. Non-Orthodox believers **may** approach the chalice for a blessing and the blessed bread instead of the Eucharist. So that the priest is aware of this, please just say,

"Father, bless" when you get to the chalice.

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.

INCOME FOR DECEMBER 2015				
	Gen. Operating	Building Fund		
Monthly Goal	\$33,000	\$14,120		
Monthly Actual	\$60,981	\$26,148		
INCOME FOR JANUARY 2016				
	Gen. Operating	Building Fund		
Monthly Cool				
Monthly Goal	\$36,000	\$14,120		
Monthly Actual	\$35,872	\$17,357		

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

FR. NICHOLAS WILL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY from Monday, February 22nd through Wednesday, March 2nd visiting St. John the Baptist Monastery in Essex, England. Please hold all phone calls, e-mails and text messages until he returns. In the event of an emergency, please contact Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges or Fr. John Carrillo.

ADULT CATECHISM: All are welcome! Join the class any Saturday at 4:30 p.m. if you are interested in learning about Orthodoxy or just want a refresher.

GETTING GEARED UP FOR GREAT LENT

Join us for this year's LENTEN SEMINAR—Friday/Saturday, March 11-12

Friday, March 11 7-8:30 p.m. Fr. Laurence Russell, Pastor of Holy

Annunciation parish in Santa Maria

"Preparing our Hearts for Lent"

Saturday, March 12 9-11 a.m. Mother Victoria, Abbess of St. Barbara Monastery

"The Prayer of St. Ephraim"

ANNUNCIATION TEA FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

This year's Tea will be March 26th at 9:30 am. We will enjoy a short program to honor the Theotokos and a light brunch will follow. There will be an Evite sent by Christie Robinson in early March.

HAVE RUMMAGE? WE'LL TAKE IT! Support our 2016 mission team to Project Mexico. Bring your donations of <u>GENTLY USED</u> clothing, equipment, furniture, household items, etc to the church on the following drop dates between 9-11 a.m.: Saturdays 2/27, 3/5 and 3/12. Questions? Contact Asia Ballew at: asiaballew0@gmail.com

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

PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

We will be updating the church photo directory next month. If you would like to use a new photo, please e-mail a HIGH RESOLUTION photo to the church office by March 31. A copy of the last directory is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

CELEBRATTIONS for THIS WEEK

Wedding Anniversaries

3/3 Christopher & Samantha Nalepa

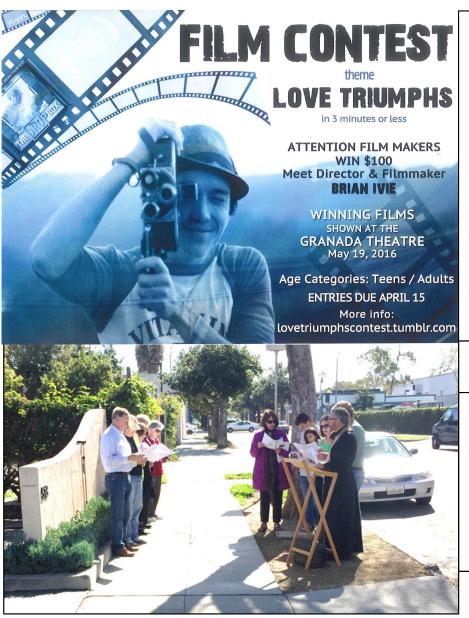
Birthdays

2/28	Ciara Giordani
3/3	Mark Kern
3/4	Juliana Brunner
3/5	Regina Moon

Pastronal Feast Day Celebrations

3/4 St. Juliana

Juliana Brunner



Attention Film Makers!

Consider entering this contest sponsored by
Network Medical of
Santa Barbara in conjunction with their annual fundraiser at the
Granada Theatre on May 19, 2016.
This year's event is titled:
"Through the Lens," and the keynote speaker is a young Director/Filmmaker Brian lvie, creator of the movie THE DROP BOX. He has a remarkable conversion story!
www.thedropboxfilm.com

Thank you to those who joined us for the Prayer of Supplication on Saturday, February 20, 2016, in front of Planned Parenthood Santa Barbara as part of the "40 Days for Life" International Vigil.



Please Join Us for the Women's Fellowship Annual

Annunciation Tea

St. Athanasius Orthodox Church 300 Sumida Gardens Lane Santa Barbara, CA 93111



Saturday, March 26, 2016 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Featuring:

Devotions, Short Musical Program and Refreshments

Donation paid at the door:
Adults \$12
Children \$8
(ages 12 and under)

Proceeds benefit the charitable projects of the Antiochian Orthodox Women of North America.

If you would like to assist with food, set-up or clean-up, please contact: christie.d.robinson@gmail.com or 805-455-4312

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Welcome to our church family!

Andrew & Adrienne Macdonald and Zoe Marie



Adrienne (Wollizer) Macdonald is no stranger to Santa Barbara. She graduated from Dos Pueblos High School and was very familiar with Orthodoxy and St. Athanasius parish, having been actively involved in the L.O.G. (Love of God) teen program along with many of our youth, including Stephanie Braun and Mary Gish, (who were both bridesmaids in her wedding.) Adrienne went off to college, and then to medical school, at UC Irvine, during which time she was chrismated in 2011 into the Orthodox Faith at St. Barnabas Antiochian Church in Costa Mesa.

Adrienne met Andrew at St. Barnabas and they returned to Santa Barbara for their wedding in May of 2012. Andrew had converted to Orthodoxy in 2010 at St. Peter the Apostle parish in San Dimas.

They moved to Santa Barbara recently when Adrienne was offered a position as a pediatrician at Cottage Hospital. Andrew is a Financial Analyst for National General Insurance. He graduated from Grove City College in Pennsylvania with a degree in Business/Finance.

Their daughter, Zoe, was born Dec. 22, 2013. We are blessed to have them as members of our parish family and look forward to getting to know them!

As Great Lent 2016 approaches,

please keep the following dates for Lenten services in mind:

Saturday, March 5	8:30 a.m.	Soul Liturgy
Daturday, March 5	0.,50 α	Dour Lituig

(commemorating the dead)

Sunday, March 6 Meatfare Picnic at the church After Liturgy

> *This year we will be changing things up a bit. We will be having our lunch right at the Church instead of going to the park. All food & beverages will be provided. The cost is \$8 for adults \$4 for children 6 years and younger. Please be on the lookout

for the EVITE from Christie Robinson.

Friday, March 11 Lenten Seminar 7-9:00 p.m. Saturday, March 12 Lenten Seminar 9-11:00 a.m.

Forgiveness Vespers Sunday, March 13 6:00 p.m.

FIRST WEEK OF GREAT LENT

Monday, March 14	6:00 p.m.	Great Compline with

Canon of St. Andrew

Tuesday, March 15 Little Compline with Canon 6:00 p.m.

of St. Andrew

Wednesday, March 16 **Presanctified Liturgy** 6:00 p.m.

Little Compline with Canon Thursday, March 17 6:00 p.m.

of St. Andrew

Friday, March 18 **Akathist** 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 20 6:00 p.m. Central Coast Inter-Orthodox

Vespers for Sunday of

Orthodoxy

We are hosting the Vespers this year. We will need some help with set-up, clean-up, and a few food items. Christie Robinson will be sending out an

online sign-up.

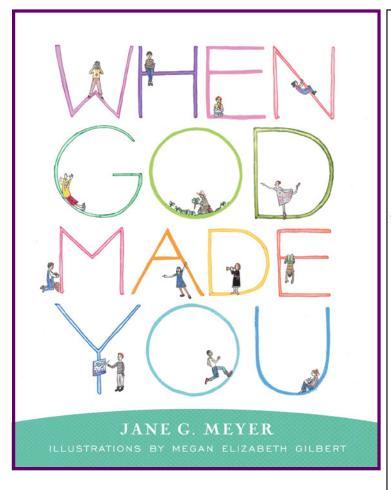
Thursday, March 24 Annunciation Vesp.-Liturgy 6:00 p.m.

by Stephen Butler will premiere on Sunday, March 6th at 3:00 p.m.

Westmont College's Choral Masterworks Concert

First Presbyterian Church, 21 E Constance Ave, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 Admission: \$10 /Adults Students admitted for free. MORE INFORMATION ON TICKETS TBA!

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BOOK SIGNING BY JANE: Sunday, March 20th after Liturgy and at Inter-Orthodox Vespers Jane G. Meyer's new book, "When God Made You" invites readers of all ages to look at each person in the world and consider what God was thinking when He made them. Every spread of this gleefully-worded book introduces a child from a different part of the world, and suggests what God had in mind when He created that child. Each "person recipe" in the book, just as in real life, is completely unique and brimming with the love and enthusiasm of our Creator.

"When God Made You" celebrates each person's extraordinary qualities, looks, talents, and interests, recognizing each facet as a gift that has been poured into that person's life by God Himself. The book also demonstrates to the reader that God does not just give those qualities to us to enjoy, but because He wants them to be used and shared. Every child in the book, upon being created, is issued a command: to plant, to sing, to paint, to lead... The book brings to life the reality that from the moment we are created, God has in His mind the work that He has set for us to do.

- From Orthodox Christian Parenting website

TEEN SCENE

Activities - Winter/Spring 2016

Junior High School

March Movie Night (Date TBA)

Friday, April 1 Retreat at St. Barbara Monastery

Friday, May 13 Pool Party and Barbecue
June End of year trip (Date TBA)

High School

Sunday, February 28 Progressive Dinner 5:00-7:00 pm Downtown

Sunday, March 6 Fire on Father 5:00-7:00 p.m. Fr. Nicholas and Jan's

Sunday, April 3 Taco Bell, S'mores, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Jon and Kristin King's

Game Night Extravaganza

Sunday, April 10 Fire on Father 5:00-7:00 p.m. Fr. Nicholas and Jan's

Good Friday April 29 All Night Vigil: 8:30 pm-10:00 a.m. at the church

Saturday, May 21 St. Barbara's Monastery Day Trip Time TBA

Sunday, May 22 Fire on Father 5:00-7:00 p.m. Fr. Nicholas and Jan's

Sunday, June 12 Graduation Party 5:00-7:00 p.m. Fr. Nicholas and Jan's

& Fire on Father

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

Dn. Richard E.

Kh. Diane Carrillo

Kh. Mary Sue W.

Greg & Margaret Y.

Hoppe Family

Kh. Mary Ellen B.

Gail S.

Dean & Penny B.

Kevin & Angel S.

Mary

Susan B.

Baby Christian F.

Duane F. Temmo K

Paige

Galina, Nikolai & Nataliya

Olga Marie G.

Mike, Trevor & Adam

Emily F.

Joan, Jerry, Brenda

Kevin O. Steve K.

Terri-Lynn & Hannah Rose H.

Scott

Rachel D. and family
All those suffering and
in danger in the Ukraine,
Africa, and the Middle East

For repose of the souls of: Christine, Michel C., All who have died in the conflicts in the Ukraine. Africa & the Middle East

ABOUT OUR PRAYER LISTS:

Prayer requests in the bulletin are prayed out loud during the deacons' litanies and should be submitted to the church office—office@stathanasius.org.

Prayer requests put into the **wooden box in the narthex** will be said silently at the altar at most services. During the **Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy**, only Orthodox Christians are commemorated, and that list is comprised of the sick, those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin, and those who prepared the Eucharist bread. Others are prayed for during the Proskomedia (Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion).

The church bookstore is located in the foyer of the fellowship hall. The two enclosed cabinets hold icons, books, and other items that are FOR SALE. 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 the brown lockbox mounted on wall next to Fr. Nicholas' office. Make checks payable to "St. Athanasius Book Center."

PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

(Please consider incorporating this prayer into your daily devotions during the "40 Days for Life Vigil" - February 10-March 20, 2016)

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

