



ST. ATHANASIUS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

300 Sumida Gardens Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Office hours: Tues-Fri. 12:00—5:00 p.m.

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

Senior Pastor:

Fr. Nicholas Speier

805-685-5495

frnicholas@stathanasius.org

Assistant Pastor:

Fr. Symeon Halsell

805-685-5400

frsymeon@stathanasius.org

Priests attached to the parish:

Fr. John Carrillo 805-770-3749 (retired)

Fr. Jon Braun (retired)

Fr. John Finley (Archdiocese Dept. of Missions)

Deacons:

Dn. Gary Braun

Dn. Scott Jacobs

Dn. Richard Easbey (retired)

Dn. John Young (retired)

Subdeacons: Stephen Butler & Michael Easbey

Music Director/Administrator:

Valerie Yova

Office phone: 805-685-5400

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Teen Program Coordinator

Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

College/Young Adult Coordinator

Mitchell Denny: mitchdennyjr@gmail.com

Parish Council 2019-2020:

Kristi King, President

Dan Braun, Treasurer

Terri Speier, Secretary

Dorothy Alexander

Laurie Baker

Corina Berari

Mary Denny

David Dillon

Zak Landrum

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Tone 2 / Eothinon 4

**Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women,
Pious Joseph of Arimathaea & Righteous Nicodemus**



WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

We are glad you are with us this morning.

If you are not Orthodox, we invite you to partake of the blessed bread during communion.

Please join us on the patio after the Liturgy for Coffee Hour.

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

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, May 16—Sunday of Myrrhbearers

9:00 a.m. Catechesis Level I
 9:00 a.m. Matins
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour

Monday, May 17

6:45 a.m. Paschal Daily Matins
 7:00 p.m. Men's Firepit

Tuesday, May 18

5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers

Wednesday, May 19

6:45 a.m. Paschal Daily Matins
 12:00 p.m. St. Xenia Prayer Ministry

Thursday, May 20

10:00 a.m. Showers of Blessing
 5:30 p.m. Daily Vespers
 6:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Friday, May 21—SS. Constantine & Helen

6:45 a.m. Paschal Daily Matins

Saturday, May 22

4:30 p.m. "What is man?"
 Class for adults and teens
 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers/Confessions

Sunday, May 23—Sunday of the Paralytic

9:00 a.m. Matins
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARIST BREAD

May 16	Sieck
May 23	Tinyayeva
May 30	Meyer
June 6	Fr. Nicholas

READERS

May 16	Rdr. V. Gish
May 23	Rdr. J. Butler
May 26	D. Alexander (Mid-Pentecost)
May 30	D. Washburn
June 6	Rdr. J. Butler

USHERS

May 16	D. Meyer, M. Loulias
May 23	C. Berari, D. Washburn
May 30	P. King, J. King
June 6	C. Speier, S. Speier

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.

**At the conclusion of Matins, we sing the Great Doxology
followed by the Matins Dismissal Troparion:**

**THE DIVINE LITURGY
OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

The Priest begins Divine Liturgy with “Blessed is the Kingdom” and the choir responds “Amen.” Bearing the Paschal Candle, the Priest then leads the singing of the Paschal Apolytikion and censes the west side of the Altar Table.

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of age.

People: Amen.

Clergy: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. **(2 times)**

GREAT LITANY

FIRST ANTIPHON

Verse: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise!

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

- Say to God: How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that Thine enemies cringe before Thee. [Refrain]
- Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee. Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High! [Refrain]
- Glory to Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. [Refrain]

SECOND ANTIPHON

Verse: God be bountiful to us and bless us! Show the light of Thy countenance upon us and have mercy on us!

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

- That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nation! [Refrain]
- Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to Thee! [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...

THIRD ANTIPHON

Verse: Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

**Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.**

- As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire. [Refrain]
- So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad. [Refrain]
- This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. [Refrain]

LITTLE ENTRANCE

**In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord from the Springs of Israel.
O Son of God Who Rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia!**

Troparion of the Resurrection

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death,
O Thou deathless and immortal One,
then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly pow'r,
and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth,
all the pow'rs of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee.
O Christ, Thou art the Giver of life, glory to Thee.

Tone 2

Troparion of Joseph of Arimathea**Tone 2**

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But You rose on the third day, O Lord, //
granting the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Myrrh-bearing Women**Tone 2**

The angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:
Myrrh is fitting for the dead;
But Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!
So proclaim: The Lord is risen,
Granting the world great mercy.

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 Pascha

Thou didst descend into the tomb O Immortal. Thou didst destroy the pow'r of death. In victory
Thou didst arise, O Christ God, proclaiming rejoice to the myrrh-bearing women, granting
peace to Thine apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

TRISAGION HYMN

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Have mercy on us. (3 times)

+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 2

The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

Verse. The Lord has chastened me severely but He has not given me over to death.

THE EPISTLE READING
Acts 6:1-7

In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Alleluia 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
Mark 15:43-16:8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the Kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb, which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.

And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back -- it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Hymn to the Mother of God (Meglynarion)

The angel cried to the lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure virgin! Again I say rejoice, O pure Virgin. Your son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead. Rejoice all ye people. O Shine! Shine! Shine, O New Jerusalem! The glory, the glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult, exult and be glad. Be glad, O Zion, be radiant, O Mother of God, in the resurrection of your Son, of your Son!

Communion of the Clergy & Communion of the Faithful

Receive the body of Christ. Taste the fountain of immortality.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Instead of "We have seen the true light, we sing: "Christ is risen" ONE time.

At the end of the dismissal prayer the service then continues with the typical Paschal dialogue, as follows:

Priest: Christ is risen.

Faithful: Indeed He is risen.

Priest: Christ is risen.

Faithful: Indeed He is risen

Priest: Christ is risen.

Faithful: Indeed He is risen.

Priest: Glory to His third-day Resurrection.

Faithful: Let us worship His third-day Resurrection.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs

Faithful: bestowing life.

English:	Christ is risen!	He is risen indeed!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Slavonic:	Christos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adeverat a inviat!
Spanish:	Christo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal!	Bergit tenestwal!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE ARE LOTS OF GREAT PHOTOS from Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha posted on the parish website. Thank you to our photographer, Nataliya Tinyayeva, for this labor of love! <https://www.stathanasius.org/media/photo-gallery/>

FAREWELLS

We are sad to say farewell to Subdeacon Matthew (Galen) Wiley, who left for Idaho this past week, and to Kyndal Vogt, who has finished her Master's Degree and is moving back to her hometown of Turlock, CA this week to start a new job as an archivist for a personal collector. We have been blessed to have them both in our parish for a number of years. **God be with you and grant you MANY YEARS!**

THANK YOU HEARTILY for your invaluable help, labor, generous contributions and moral support for the SAOC Festal Decorating Team as we journeyed through Lazarus Saturday and onward toward Pascha- and finally to Thomas Sunday. It's an incalculable gift — the strength and “lift” you gave to us, both in the decorating ministry and to our beautiful church family- a glory to God! The Church just “glowed” —bright and full of the joy of the Resurrection!!! — Lisa Ballew, Festal Decorating Team

THE NEXT MEN'S FIREPIT GATHERING is this Monday, May 17th at Fr. Nicholas and Kh. Jan Speier's home.

GRADUATES?

If you have a 2021 graduate in the family, please send a brief narrative and photo to the church office so that we can honor our grads. (School graduating from, degree, plans for the next year, achievements or accolades, etc.)

THERE IS NO KNEELING DURING WORSHIP SERVICES BETWEEN NOW AND PENTECOST.

CHANGE IN DAILY TRISAGION PRAYERS:

1. From Pascha until Pentecost, do not say, “O Heavenly King...”
2. From Pascha until Ascension, replace “Holy God, Holy Mighty...” with “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in tombs bestowing life.”

What is man, that Thou art mindful of Him?
A series for teens and adults, Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.

There are many competing beliefs about what it means to be a flourishing human being taught by the world. In this lecture series Fr. Symeon will address the big questions we face today about human life, and how we as Christians may understand and respond to the ever-changing social fabric as *little Christs*. We will ask the question of God and of ourselves, *What is man, that Thou art mindful of Him?* The lectures will be appropriate for teenagers and up and will run for 7 weeks from now until June 26th every Saturday beginning at 4:30 pm at the church.

May 22	<i>The Fall and the Composition of Humanity</i>
May 29	<i>Our Re-creation through & in Christ</i>
June 5	<i>Does God care about sex(uality)?</i>
June 12	<i>The Nations - Israel and Gentiles or What do we have to do with Race?</i>
June 19	<i>Are Humans Fluid or Solid? or What is Human Nature?</i>
June 26	<i>Cultivating the Soul and Growth in Christ: Our Recomposition & Life Toward Paradise!</i>

SAOC SUMMER SCHOOL IS BACK!
FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED GRADES K-6

Monday, June 14-Friday, June 25 (weekdays only)
8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE
IN THE LOBBY OF THE CHURCH
& ON THE WEBSITE AT:**

<https://www.stathanasius.org/ministries/youth-education/summer-school/>

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Wedding Anniversaries:

5/17 David & Shirley Dillon
5/20 Stoney & Jami Stetler
5/22 Beau & Leticia Brunner

Birthdays:

5/17 Kent Fox, Megan Speier
5/18 Penny Cocores
5/19 Anastasia Brunner, Bob Newsom
5/20 Luke Speier, Peter Braun

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

May 12, 2021

Beloved Faithful in Christ,

Greetings and blessings to you and your families in the Name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

I pray that you had a blessed feast of Holy Pascha. We remember the difficulties imposed on us this time last year due to the pandemic, and it was a joy to travel and commemorate the week of the Life-giving and Saving Passion of our Savior and His Glorious Third-day Resurrection with so many of faithful.

When I ascended the archiepiscopal throne of this God-protected Archdiocese, I promised to make our youth and young adults a focus of my ministry. When I think of the struggles, privations, and civil strife of the last year, my heart goes out first and foremost to our young people. During these trying times, they were cut off from grandparents and family members, school and sports, important life events and social activities. Most importantly, many have lost touch with the Church. When the churches opened again to the faithful, I have been disappointed to see that in many cases the families with children have been the last to return.

Upon my request, the Assembly of Canonical Bishops agreed to declare this year of 2021 as the Year of Youth. We need to take this time as pastors, parents, parish council members, teachers, advisors, and the youth to return to the Father's House and commit ourselves and each other to Christ.

I have asked Fr. Nicholas Belcher to lead our efforts to revitalize our youth and young adult ministries. He will be reaching out to all our dioceses, clergy, parents, teachers, lay leaders, and young people to assess the needs of our young people – to ask what are we doing well and what can we do better? He will be joined by a task force of lay and clergy leaders who are experienced in the areas of Christian education, youth ministry, young adult ministry, and camping.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my deepest thanks and appreciation to those who have worked so hard over the years on behalf of our young people. Particularly, we thank these individuals for their years of leadership and dedicated

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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service: Fr. Joseph Purpura of the Department of Youth and Parish Ministry, Carole Buleza of the Department of Christian Education, and Fr. Anthony Yazge of the Department of Camping as well as the Young Adult Ministry. May our Lord bless them for their excellent stewardship of these ministries over the years!

As we begin this time of reflection and planning for the future, Fr. Nicholas will serve as a point person for the Young Adult Ministry, Anna Sarah Farha for the Department of Christian Education, Fr. Philip Rogers and Erin Ghata for the Department of Youth, and Khalil Samara for the Department of Camping to make sure we are continuing the important work of these ministries.

Nothing could be more important to my ministry as the Metropolitan Archbishop of this Archdiocese than our youth. I ask that we all engage in this process with open minds and hearts and prayer. We will be updating all of the Parish Life Conferences this summer about this important work, and we will have a strategic plan to present to the Archdiocese Convention.

With prayerful best wishes for a blessed and grace-filled celebration of this Pentecostarion period, I remain,

Your Father in the Risen Lord,



+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF FATHER JON-STEPHEN HEDGES

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges was a community organizer, spiritual leader, and social justice advocate; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon was known for his ministry to the houseless of Isla Vista, members of his church, victims of tragedy, and first responders; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon came to Isla Vista in 1968 to attend UC Santa Barbara and he met and married his devoted wife, Melissa, and they had children Benjamin and Sarah; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon was known for his compassion, tenacity, and dedication to serving others. He became a longtime assistant priest at St. Athanasius Orthodox Church, an elected and founding member of the Isla Vista Community Services District, and served as a volunteer Chaplain for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon was called up to comfort and guide countless County residents during times of great local disaster and tragedies, from the aftermath of the Goleta Postal shooting, the mass shooting in Isla Vista, the 1/9 Debris Flow, and the Conception dive boat fire; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon also comforted and guided countless Americans in other states struck by disaster including in the wakes of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon did not just respond to unanticipated disasters, he was also called upon to serve the most vulnerable among us and was an advocate for the poor, the destitute and the houseless; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon influenced countless others to do good works and to walk the path of virtue and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon selflessly dedicated his life to three noble endeavors: helping those impacted by tough circumstances, misfortune, bad choices, or calamity; supporting, nurturing, and fortifying those who are called to respond to their needs; and serving God by doing those first two; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon was a shepherd who tended his many flocks with devotion, energy, compassion, and kindness and he will be missed.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors recognize the extraordinary life of Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges after his untimely passing in February 2021. **Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, on this 6th day of April, 2021, by unanimous vote of all members present.**



ATTEST:

Sharon Hays
Clerk of the Board

Das Williams
Supervisor - 1st District
Larry Hard
Supervisor - 2nd District
Joan Hart
Supervisor - 3rd District
Bob Weber
Supervisor - 4th District
Sharon Hays
Supervisor - 5th District

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRIS AND ALONA SEAMAN, who were married in the Ukraine last Sunday, May 9th. May God grant them many years and a safe journey back to Canada.



BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

On Thomas Sunday, May 9th, we blessed the graves at Goleta Cemetery, where many of our beloved parish members and/or their family members have been laid to rest. We walked in procession from grave to grave singing "Christ is risen," proclaiming Christ's trampling on death and His life-giving Resurrection. We said a prayer at each grave, and the children laid a bouquet of flowers on each headstone. It was a joy to have so many children participating this year!

MEMORY ETERNAL! CHRIST IS RISEN!



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT—January—April 2021

Goal for Tithes January—April	\$ 166,668
Actual Tithes January-April	\$ 191,566
Building Fund Goal for Jan.-April	\$ 56,480
Actual Building Fund donations for Jan.-April	\$ 43,901

Monthly tithe goal = \$41,667	Monthly Building Fund goal = \$14,120
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<u>Tithes received per month:</u>		<u>Building Fund donations per month:</u>	
January	\$ 37,625		\$ 7,672
February	\$ 46,485		\$16,382
March	\$ 59,535		\$ 6,722
April	\$ 47,921		\$ 13,125

\$ 13,125

SAFETY PROTOCOLS—May 2021

Having entered the “Orange Tier” in California, we are permitted to be at 50% capacity inside the nave of the church. This means that during services, we still must continue to maintain some distance between chairs and wear masks.

The Sunday Divine Liturgy is being broadcast in the hallway and on the patio for overflow crowd and for those who are not comfortable sitting inside the nave.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests received through the parish office will be printed in the bulletin and will be prayed for during the litanies at the daily services. Prayer requests received in the box at the church will be prayed for quietly at the altar at all services. Prayer requests remain for 40 days unless requested otherwise.

Send prayer requests for the bulletin to: office@stathanasius.org.

Please pray for the health of:

Metropolitan JOSEPH
Mother Victoria
Met. Paul & Abp. John
Fr. Markos
Fr. Jon B.
Dn. Richard E.
Kh. Diane C.
Greg & Margaret Y.
Hoppe Family in Albania
Joseph Wm. B. in Kenya
Duane F.
Richard and Susan B.
Monsignor J. Yanek
Bob N.
Kh. Melissa H.
Cole K. (military)
Jeremiah H. (Airforce Academy)
Lauren & Fernando J. (military)

Chase K. (military)
Nick & Kristine J. (military)
Steve T,
Nina
Dasha
Bev R.
Phyllis M.
Lee Family
Audrey
Scott L.
Samantha and Chris N.
Dan A.
John S.
Earle L.
Barbara W.
Phoebe L.
Abp. Benjamin

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church
The Church & people in Lebanon
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.

For repose of the souls of: Doreen, Fr. Vladimir L., Jim R., Betty

ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH BOOKSTORE

The church bookstore is located in the foyer of the fellowship hall - two enclosed cabinets containing items that are FOR SALE. One cabinet holds icons, crosses, incense, prayer ropes, etc. The bookshelf has books for sale, arranged alphabetically by book title. Children's books are on the bottom shelf. See Terri Speier if you are looking for jewelry such as a cross or chain. Payment should be made at time of purchase and placed in brown lockbox on wall next to Fr. Nicholas' office. Make checks payable to **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 Building Fund.

FROM THE ST. BARBARA MONASTERY NEWSLETTER ...on the Blessing of the Graves after Pascha

Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

Tuesday in the 2nd week after Pascha is called “The Day of Rejoicing.” On that day (or another close to it), Orthodox Christians visit the graves of the departed and pray the paschal memorial service for them. Here at St. Barbara Monastery, we will walk the short distance to the grave shared by two of our departed nuns, Mother Mariamne and Mother Juliana, and then continue down to the infant cemetery in the woods near the creek. In both cases, we will proclaim the paschal greeting Christ is risen! to the departed and sing the paschal Kontakion: Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One! Thou didst destroy the power of death!

Someone asked: “What does it mean to exclaim Thou didst destroy the power of death, when we know bodies lie in these graves and every day people die?” Maybe we have all wondered much the same thing, because this question is obvious and fundamental.

There are various answers and the first is St. Paul’s in his First Letter to the Corinthians. He tells us that the bodies we bury in the earth are “seeds,” which like all seeds are sown in corruption but which God will raise in incorruption. Just as a grain of wheat rises from the earth with a new “body,” so will we rise from the earth with a new “resurrection body.”

A somewhat different answer is given by St. Maximos the Confessor, who says the resurrection is both “now and not yet.” This line of thought speaks of the overlapping of the ages and the “breakthrough” of the Kingdom of God into this world. Thus, we experience a foretaste of the Resurrection at Pascha, but receive it in its fullness only in the age to come— after a lifetime of preparation and labor to open ourselves to the grace of God and perhaps a time of “sleep” in the grave.

And sometimes, by way of an answer, we are told that this whole subject is a great mystery to be passed over in silence because it is inexpressible. This is essentially what St. John of Damascus says. His “answer” would be totally unsatisfying if it simply meant that such knowledge is unattainable. But what St. John means is that, to attain this knowledge is not a matter of reading the right book or finding the right teacher. Rather, one has to be initiated, this knowledge is derived from experience. Live the Christian life and little by little you will learn the answer by osmosis in your very being. Indeed, is it not true that when we sin, when we fall ill, when we age, we sense death at work in us? And is it not true that, when we repent, when we receive grace, when we participate in the paschal service, we feel renewed life stirring within us? Such experiences assure us in the depths of our being that we are alive in Christ and death has, indeed, been abolished. The death and dying we see around us, then, have no stranglehold on us. They are but a passage to the age to come, where God “makes all things new.”

Abbess Victoria and the Sisters