



St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America • Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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TONE 1

DECEMBER 11, 2022

EOTHINON 4

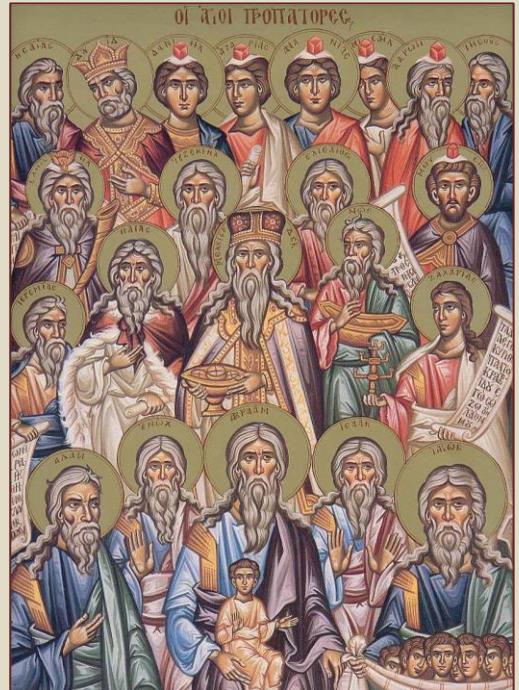
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS OF CHRIST

أحد اجداد المسيح القديسين

VENERABLE DANIEL THE STYLITE • LUKE THE NEW STYLITE OF CHALCEDON

Today, we remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally, the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son.

Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity, which suffered the weight of evil since Adam, to realize the promise made to Abraham, to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.



LITURGY VARIATIONS

3RD ANTIPHON (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 powers 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.

إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا حُتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، وَحَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ حُفِظَ مِنْ
الْجُنْدِ، قُتِمَتْ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ أَيُّهَا الْمَحْلَسُ، مَانِحًا الْعَالَمَ
الْحَيَاةَ. لِذَلِكَ قُوَّتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ، هَتَفُوا إِلَيْكَ يَا وَاهِبِ الْحَيَاةَ:
الْمِجْدُ لِقِيَامَتِكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ، الْمِجْدُ لِمُلْكِكَ، الْمِجْدُ لِتَدْبِيرِكَ،
يَا مُحِبَّ الْبَشَرِ وَحَدَّكَ.

Schedule of Regular Weekly Services

Sundays: Matins, 9:15 AM Confession: After Saturday Vespers
Divine Liturgy, 10:30 AM During Sunday Matins
Saturdays: Great Vespers, 6:00 PM Or by Appointment



See Calendar for Feast Days and Other Weekday Services Scheduled

Please turn cell phones off!

Order for Holy Communion

Members of the Orthodox Church age seven and above must prepare for Holy Communion with a recent confession, prayer, fasting from all food and drink from midnight (unless a medical condition preclude it), being in church *before* the Epistle and Gospel readings, and being at peace with everyone.

CHILDREN going to church school and their teachers should come down the center aisle first. (Small children may need to be assisted by their parents.)

ALL OTHERS should wait until an usher dismisses your row from the center aisle. Then return to your place by a side aisle for the prayers of thanksgiving and the final blessing and dismissal. Please let choir members pass when they come down for Communion.

A Warm Welcome to Our Guests

We are glad you are worshipping with us. Please note that participation in **Holy Communion is limited to members of the Orthodox Church** in good standing, who have prepared with prayer, fasting and a recent confession.

For all others: though we cannot share Communion with you—since it is an expression of membership and full unity in faith—you are welcome to come forward after the dismissal, receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread (from the large bowls). Please also sign our guest book and introduce yourself to Fr. Nabil or Fr. Andrew during coffee hour. You may inquire with them how you can become a member.

APOLYTIKIA AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews....

إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا خْتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ....

Troparion for the Holy Forefathers (Tone 2)

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory, for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

لَقَدْ رَكَّيْتَ بِالْإِيمَانِ الْآبَاءَ الْقُدَمَاءَ، وَبِهِمْ سَبَقْتَ فَخَطَبْتَ
الْبَيْعَةَ الَّتِي مِنَ الْأُمَمِ، فَالْقَدِيسُونَ بِالْمَجْدِ يَفْتَخِرُونَ، إِذْ مِنْ
زَرْعِهِمْ أُبْنِعَتْ ثَمَرَةٌ حَسْبِيَّةٌ، وَهِيَ الَّتِي وَلَدَتْكَ بِغَيْرِ زَرْعٍ.
فَبِتَضَرُّعِهِمْ أُبِيهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ ارْحَمْنَا.

Troparion of St. Nicholas (Tone 4)

The verity of your actions revealed you to your flock, a rule of faith, an icon of mildness, and teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas; wherefore by humility you have achieved exaltation and by poverty richness. Intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

لَقَدْ أَظْهَرْتَكَ أَفْعَالَ الْحَقِّ لِرَعِيَّتِكَ قَانُونًا لِلْإِيمَانِ، وَصُورَةً
لِلْوَدَاعَةِ، وَمُعَلِّمًا لِلْإِمْسَاكِ، أُبِيهَا الْأَبُ وَرَتِيسُ الْكَهَنَةِ
نِقُولًا وَس. فَلِذَلِكَ أُحْرَزَتْ بِالتَّوَاضُعِ الرَّفْعَةُ، وَبِالْمَسْكِنَةِ الْغِنَى.
فَتَشَفَّعْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهُ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نَفُوسَنَا.

Kontakion in Preparation for the Nativity of Christ (Tone 3)

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

الْيَوْمَ الْعَذْرَاءُ تَأْتِي إِلَى الْمَغَارَةِ لِتَلِدَ الْكَلِمَةَ الَّتِي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ،
وَلَادَةٌ لَا تُفَسَّرُ وَلَا يُنطَوُّ بِهَا، فَأَفْرَحِي أُبِيهَا الْمَسْكُونَةَ إِذَا
سَمِعْتِ، وَتَجَدِّي مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالرُّعَاةِ، الَّتِي سَيَطَّهَرُ بِمَشِيئَتِهِ
طِفْلًا جَدِيدًا وَهُوَ إِلَهُنَا الَّذِي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Prokeimenon (Daniel 3.26, 27 LXX; Tone 4)

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

Verse: For You are just in all You have done.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians (3.4-11; 29th Sunday after Pentecost/Forefathers)

BRETHREN, when Christ Who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14.16-24; 11th Sunday of Luke/Forefathers)

THE LORD SPOKE THIS PARABLE: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet, he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one,

بروكيمنون (دانيال ٣، ٢٦، ٢٧ سبع؛ اللحن الرابع)

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا.
لَأَنَّكَ عَدْلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى

اهل كولوسي (٤، ٣-١١)؛

للأحد التاسع عشر بعد العنصرة وأحد الاجداد)

يا إِخْوَةَ، متى ظَهَرَ الْمَسِيحُ الَّذِي هُوَ حَيَاتُنَا، فَانْتُمْ أَيْضاً
تُظَهَرُونَ حِينَئِذٍ مَعَهُ فِي الْمَجْدِ. فَأَمَيْتُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ الَّتِي عَلَى
الْأَرْضِ: الرِّبَى، وَالتَّجَاسُّةَ، وَالهَوَى، وَالشَّهْوَةَ الرَّدِيَّةَ، وَالطَّمَعِ
الَّذِي هُوَ عِبَادَةٌ وَثَنٌ. لِأَنَّهُ لِأَجْلِ هَذِهِ يَأْتِي غَضَبُ اللَّهِ عَلَى
أَبْنَاءِ الْعِصْيَانِ. وَفِي هَذِهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً سَلَكْتُمْ حِيناً إِذْ كُنْتُمْ
عَائِشِينَ فِيهَا. أَمَّا الْآنَ، فَانْتُمْ أَيْضاً اطْرَحُوا الْكُلَّ: الْعَضَبَ،
وَالسُّخْطَ، وَالْحُبْثَ، وَالتَّجْدِيفَ، وَالكَلَامَ الْقَبِيحَ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِكُمْ.
وَلَا يُكْذِبُ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضاً، بَلِ اخْلَعُوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْعَتِيقَ مَعَ
أَعْمَالِهِ. وَالْبَسُوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْجَدِيدَ الَّذِي يَتَجَدَّدُ لِلْمَعْرِفَةِ عَلَى
صَوْرَةِ خَالِقِهِ. حَيْثُ لَيْسَ يُونَانِيٌّ وَلَا يَهُودِيٌّ، لَا خِتَانٌ وَلَا
قَلْفٌ، لَا بَرَبْرِيٌّ وَلَا اسْكِيثِيٌّ، لَا عَبْدٌ وَلَا حُرٌّ، بَلِ الْمَسِيحُ هُوَ
كُلُّ شَيْءٍ وَفِي الْجَمِيعِ.

مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ

(١٦، ١٤-٢٤؛ للأحد الحادي عشر وأحد الاجداد)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ صَنَعَ عَشَاءً عَظِيماً وَدَعَا
كَثِيرِينَ. فَأَرْسَلَ عَبْدَهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعَشَاءِ يَقُولُ لِلْمَدْعُوِّينَ:
تَعَالَوْا فَإِنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قَدْ أَعِدَّ. فَطَفِقَ كُلُّهُمْ وَاحِدٌ فَوَاحِدٌ

they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

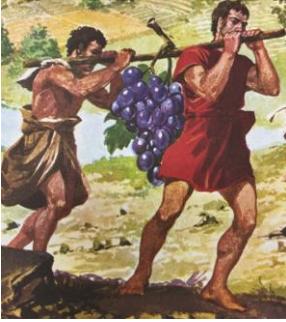
يَسْتَعْفُونَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ الْأَوَّلُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ حَقْلًا، وَلَا بُدَّ لِي أَنْ أُخْرَجَ وَأَنْظُرُهُ، فَاسْأَلْكَ أَنْ تَعْفَيْنِي. وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ خَمْسَةَ فِدَادِينَ بَقَرٍ وَأَنَا ماضٍ لِأَجْرِبَهَا، فَاسْأَلْكَ أَنْ تَعْفَيْنِي. وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ تَزَوَّجْتُ امْرَأَةً، فَلِذَلِكَ لَا اسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَجِيءَ. فَأَتَى الْعَبْدُ وَأَخْبَرَ سَيِّدَهُ بِذَلِكَ. فَحِينَئِذٍ، غَضِبَ رَبُّ الْبَيْتِ، وَقَالَ لِعَبْدِهِ: أُخْرَجْ سَرِيعًا إِلَى شَوَارِعِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَرْقُفْهَا وَأَدْخِلِ الْمَسَاكِينَ وَالْجُدُغَ وَالْمُتَمَيَّنَّ وَالْعُرْجَ إِلَى هَهَنَا. فَقَالَ الْعَبْدُ: يَا سَيِّدُ، قَدْ قُضِيَ مَا أَمَرْتَ بِهِ، وَيَبْقَى أَيْضًا مَحَلٌّ. فَقَالَ السَيِّدُ لِلْعَبْدِ: أُخْرَجْ إِلَى الطَّرِيقِ وَالْأَسْجِحَةِ وَاضْطَرِّرْهُمْ إِلَى الدُّخُولِ حَتَّى يَمْتَلِئَ بَيْتِي. فَإِنِّي أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَا يَذوقُ عَشَائِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاكَ الرِّجَالِ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ. لِأَنَّ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ كَثِيرُونَ وَالْمُخْتَارِينَ قَلِيلُونَ.

HOLY OBLATIONS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- By the Cathedral community, for the health of our choir and chanters, the church school, the committee and all who decorated and helped with the St. Nicholas Day Banquet.
- By Salwa Ayoub, for the health of her family, and in memory of husband Emil and daughter Gretta.
- By Ouberto and Jacqui Badaro, for the health of Joseph, Layal, Victoria and Aaron, and in memory of brother/uncle John Malouf and sister/aunt Jocelyne Badaro Tohme.
- By Adrienne Andrews and her children and grandchildren, for the health of father and grandfather Robert Andrews on his 94th birthday.
- By Angelle Grace Ghiz-Wacker and Roger Wacker, for the health of Adrienne and Robert Andrews and of the Wacker, Ghiz, Aboohamad, Martin, Deeb, Kushner and Andrews families, for the repose of Angelle's mother Sally Lou Ghiz (5-year memorial), and in memory of George James, and Jazelle and Edward Ghiz.
- By George, Mariam, Mark, Antonio and Hend Bshara.
- By Ehab, Rania, Sami, Selena and Anthony Dahabreh, in memory of Rania's father, Hani Tadros, and of Ehab's mother, Nawal Hawatmeh Dahabreh.

To offer Holy Oblations and Memorials please use the form at

<https://stnicholasla.com/makeaprayrequest> or call the Cathedral office by Wednesday.



**TODAY'S STUDY TOPIC: LESSON 1.22
EXODUS 34-40; NUMBERS 10-13
THE COVENANT IS RENEWED; THE TWELVE SPIES**

All church school classes from first grade on up today will study Exodus 34-40 and Numbers 10-13 (pp 150-55 in *The Golden Children's Bible*).

Adults will study the same text simultaneously, at the end of Liturgy, while our children are in their classes.

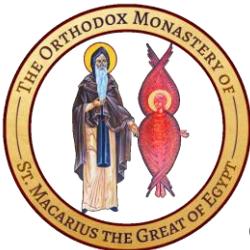
ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER LITURGY

Following the dismissal and announcements, come forward for a blessing, then exit via the south (right side) doors, and join us in the Heritage Ballroom for refreshments.



Please consider sponsoring a Coffee Hour after Liturgy. Bring whatever you would like to share—donuts, cookies, mini bagels, zaatar, etc. What we eat isn't as important as sharing the fellowship of our Cathedral Family. The Ladies Society will provide the coffee and paper goods. Call/text Joujou George (562) 522-1322, or email her at ginageorge@verizon.net by Wednesday to reserve a Sunday.



FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTING

We welcome today the nuns from the Orthodox Monastery of St. Macarius the Great in Montclair (OCA). They have also brought with them books, icons (both mounted prints and original, hand-painted), prayer ropes and other items, which are available in the hall, during coffee hour.

The nuns recently found a beautiful and suitable piece of bare land in Casa Grande, AZ, that is in line with their vision. They used all the funds they had saved up over the years to purchase this property and have just begun installing fencing around the perimeter. *"We live by a simple principle: whenever we have provision we proceed. That being said, we need your help!"*





**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: PV013/2022

December 11, 2022

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-Loving Faithful,

On this holy Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ, I send warm greetings to you from His Beatitude Patriarch John X, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, father of fathers and shepherd of shepherds, in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Today we gratefully recognize all our dedicated and faithful church musicians and take a moment to reflect on their essential contribution to our church life. The beauty and sweetness of their music carry our hearts beyond mundane preoccupations to the contemplation of heavenly and eternal truths. The spirit and strength of their singing fill us with zeal for God and boldness in seeking His Kingdom.

It is written in the Psalms, “Blessed is the people who know the festal shout. O Lord, they will walk in the light of Thy countenance and will exult in Thy name all day long and will be lifted up by Thy righteousness” (88:16–17). The hymns sung by our choirs and chanters are not merely pleasant tunes but festal shouts of courage and victory. As these hymns fill our hearts and our lives, they inspire us to live boldly for God in each moment, proclaiming our loyalty to Him without embarrassment and being led by Him into a life of holiness.

On this Musician Appreciation Sunday, we extend heartfelt thanks to Ms. Mareena Boosamra-Ball and all the members of our archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music for their tireless efforts in support of this holy ministry. And we gratefully honor the dedication of all the choir directors, chanters, and choir members in parishes throughout the archdiocese, who faithfully present their time and talents, week after week, as priceless gifts to Christ and His Church.

Wishing you and your families—in the name of His Beatitude Patriarch John X and on my behalf—a blessed remainder of the fast and a joyous Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

✠Metropolitan ANTONIOS

Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek, and Dependencies
Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST AMERICAN ORTHODOX SAINT

**Tuesday, Dec. 13:
Matins, 9 AM • Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**

He is known as the "Wonderworker of All America." In one of Saint Her-
man's most famous sayings, he urges:

*"From this day, from this hour, from this minute,
let us strive to love God above all and to fulfill His holy will."*

*"من هذا اليوم ، من هذه الساعة ، من هذه اللحظة ،
دعونا نسعى جاهدين لنحب الله قبل كل شيء ونحقق ارادته المقدسة."
القديس غرمانوس الالاسكي*



METROPOLITAN ANTONIOS VISITING US NEXT WEEKEND



Metropolitan Antonios, Archbishop of Zahle and Baalbek, is the Patriarchal Vicar to our North American Archdiocese. As such, he is temporarily overseeing the administration of our Archdiocese and, specifically, the nomination phase of electing a new metropolitan.

He is traveling across the country to learn about our Archdiocese, its character and needs, as well as to answer our questions about the election process, etc. He is coming to St. Nicholas Cathedral next weekend to meet with us and all the Southern California clergy and laity.

- 1. Saturday, Dec. 17, 1 pm** **Clergy will meet with Metropolitan Antonios** at St. Nicholas Cathedral
- 2. Saturday, Dec. 17, 6 pm** **Great Vespers at St. Nicholas Cathedral.** All the Southern California parishes and their clergy will be joining us for a concelebration of vespers.
- 3. Saturday, Dec. 17, 7 pm** **Reception and Q&A Session with Metropolitan Antonios at St. Nicholas Cathedral.** This is the opportunity for the laity to ask questions, get answers and give input regarding the process of electing our new metropolitan.
- 4. Sunday, Dec. 18, 9 am** **Matins and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy** (follows at ~10:30 am) **at St. Nicholas Cathedral.** A lunch reception will follow.



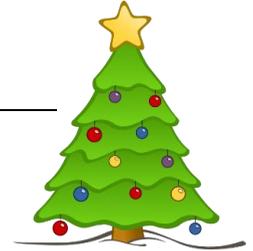
WEAR ST. IGNATIUS CROSSES NEXT SUNDAY

The Sunday before Christmas is observed as St. Ignatius Sunday in our Archdiocese. Thus, next Sunday, December 18, all members of the Order should come to church wearing their crosses and ribbons. We will also ask members of the Order to serve as ushers, take the collection, etc.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NEXT SATURDAY, DEC. 17

ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

BREAKFAST SERVED • TOYS FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-12



Sign up to serve at tinyurl.com/focus-la

8:30AM-1:00PM



PICK UP 2023 CALENDARS IN NARTHEX

Our new church icon calendars are now available. Please take one. The calendar grid includes each day's scripture readings and indicates fasting days and commemorations, and it includes space for your own notes and appointments.



SEE'S CANDY

Please remember to order and purchase your holiday See's Candy from Diane Brooks, just in front of the bookstore. Diane also sells See's Candy Gift Cards. That way, you can give a gift at any time during the holidays! Contact Diane at 562-761-8436 or rockinwomom@gmail.com.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Our 40-day Fast in preparation for Christmas continues with prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During this time, we abstain from meat and dairy products. Then the last few days of the fast—Dec. 20-24—become stricter, when fish, wine and oil are also excluded.

Schedule for Christmas

Friday, December 23

10 a.m. Royal Hours

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

9 a.m. Matins

10 a.m. Pre-feast of Christmas Liturgy

While we encourage all to come to both the morning and night services (they are not the same), this may be an excellent opportunity for young children and entire families to celebrate the birth of Christ together.

8:30 p.m. Matins

10 p.m. CHRISTMAS LITURGY

In celebration of the Feast and as a token of our love and appreciation of you, Fr. Nabil and Khouriyah Elaine will host dinner in the Heritage Hall immediately following Liturgy.

Note that there are NO services Christmas morning, even though it's a Sunday. Just like on Pascha, we have our service near midnight and NOT Sunday morning.



WINTER CAMP

Calling all Jr. High and High Schoolers!

Winter Camp will be held **February 17-20, 2023**, at Camp St. Nicholas. Sign up online at

www.campstnicholas.com/site/home

If anyone can't afford the cost, please see Fr. Nabil or Fr. Andrew privately, and we'll take care of it discreetly.

DIOCESE YOUNG ADULT WINTER RETREAT - JAN. 13-16

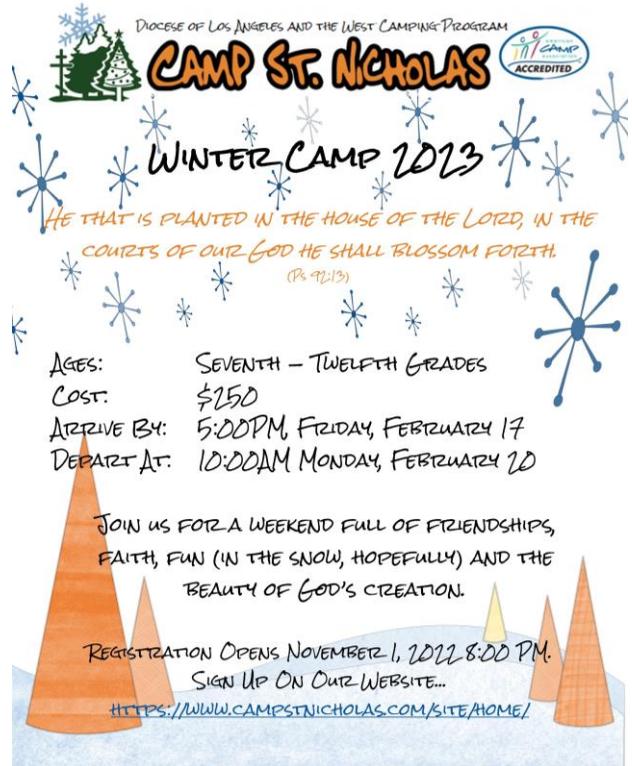
Our diocese young adult board (DLAW YAM) will host their annual young adult retreat in Big Bear during MLK week-end.

This is a great opportunity to meet young adults from across our diocese - typically there are up to 80 attendees.

Register for the retreat at <http://www.dlawyoungadults.com/events/winter-retreat-2023/>

The agenda for the retreat includes:

- Guest speakers covering a church related topic
- Free time to socialize and get to know each other
- Snowboarding and skiing are optional for the last day before heading home (lift tickets and rentals available for purchase).



DIocese of Los Angeles and the West Camping Program
CAMP ST. NICHOLAS ACCREDITED

WINTER CAMP 2023

HE THAT IS PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, IN THE COURTS OF OUR GOD HE SHALL BLOSSOM FORTH.
(Ps 92:13)

AGES: SEVENTH - TWELFTH GRADES
COST: \$250
ARRIVE BY: 5:00PM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17
DEPART AT: 10:00AM MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND FULL OF FRIENDSHIPS, FAITH, FUN (IN THE SNOW, HOPEFULLY) AND THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION.

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1, 2022 8:00 PM.
SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE...
[HTTPS://WWW.CAMPSTNICHOLAS.COM/SITE/HOME/](https://www.campstnicholas.com/site/home/)



YAM
Winter Retreat
~2023~
Big Bear, CA

MLK Weekend
Jan 13-16th!

Guest speaker TBA
Optional Snowboarding and Skiing
Link to Sign up in Instagram Bio!

Early Bird: \$225
(Register by Dec. 3)

~Housing, Food, Drink, etc. included!!!~
Lift tickets and rentals are available for purchase!



Fall 2022 Adult Education *Continues*

Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:45 pm
October 5 – December 14



- We start with Vespers & Dinner



Choose a
course:

Early Christian Faith & Worship

Instructor: Fr. Nabil Hanna

Life as Mystery

Instructor: Fr. Andrew Andrews

Using the text *Bread & Water, Wine & Oil: An Orthodox
Christian Experience of God* by Meletios Webber

Dec. 14	Spirituality and Eschatology: Living in this world; the Second Coming; Holiness, saints and Mariology	Chapter 13: The Mystery of Marriage & Chapter 14: The Mystery of Ordination
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SWEETHEART BALL FASHION SHOW

Saturday, February 4 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City. Tickets cost \$85. Contact Lauren Malouf at 818-678-0406 or at lmalouf@hchc.edu to make your reservations.

Program Book Sponsorships Available

The Sweetheart Ball is a beautiful affair. It takes great financial assistance to make it a success. Our souvenir program book is not a commercial book for advertising but for congratulatory messages. The sponsorship form is available, together with more information on the ball itself, ordering of tickets, etc., at stnicholasla.org/ball

The 58th Sweetheart Ball
April 29, 2023 ~ Universal Hilton Hotel



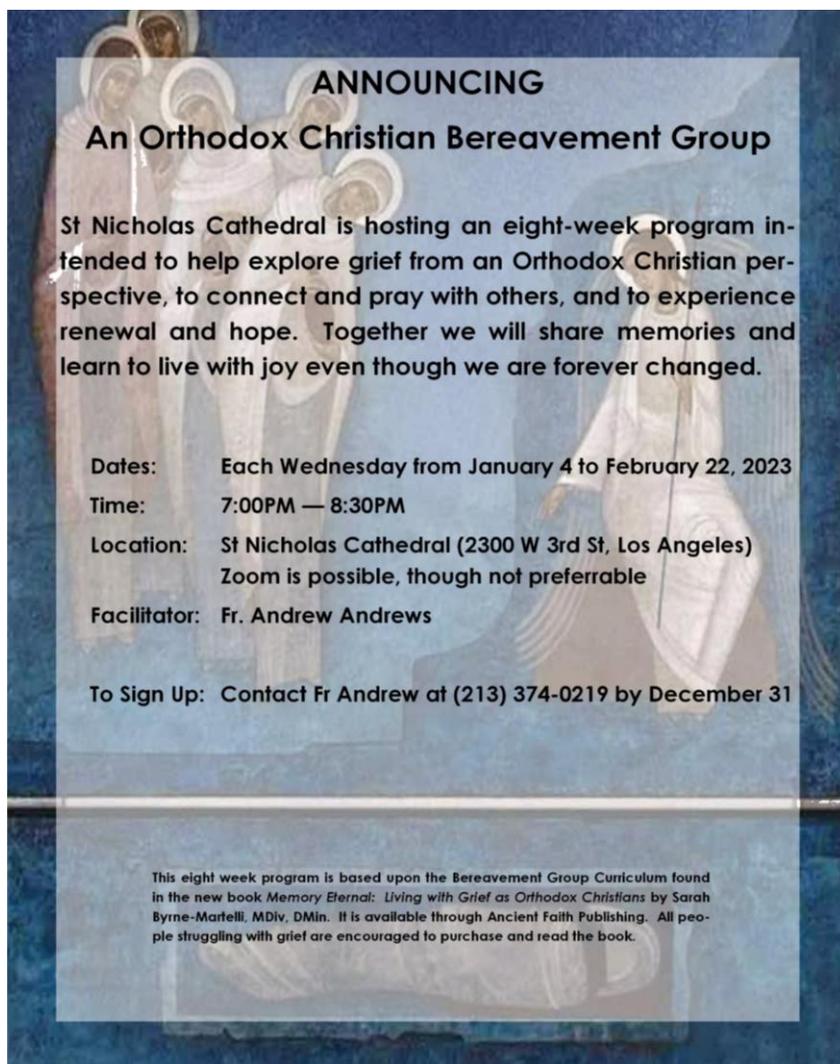
DON'T PRE-CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!

The Advent Season, which began for us on November 15, is a time for anticipating the "Good News" of the Lord's Birth. As with all things in life, Scripture reminds us that we must be careful of being "in the world, but not of the world". This is especially true of the celebration of Christmas. Many lament that the stores are decorated for Christmas from the end of October - an example of the over-stressing and "early-stressing" of this great Christian Holy Day.

But what do we do in our homes? I have noticed that on the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving, people begin to put up their decorations and turn on their Christmas lights and trees.

Our Orthodox Advent tradition gives us some guidelines of which many of us perhaps are not aware. Within this 40-day preparation period, a slow progression of events and remembrances unfolds. This is seen in the general attitude, hymnology, prayers, and fasting practices which begin to intensify on the Feast of St. Nicholas (December 6), and progress through the feasts of St. Spyridon (December 12), St. Daniel (December 17) and St. Ignatios (December 20). The latter is specifically called "the day of preparation". What do you think this tells us?

Add to this the tradition of the "Twelve Days of Christmas" that begins on



ANNOUNCING

An Orthodox Christian Bereavement Group

St Nicholas Cathedral is hosting an eight-week program intended to help explore grief from an Orthodox Christian perspective, to connect and pray with others, and to experience renewal and hope. Together we will share memories and learn to live with joy even though we are forever changed.

Dates: Each Wednesday from January 4 to February 22, 2023

Time: 7:00PM — 8:30PM

Location: St Nicholas Cathedral (2300 W 3rd St, Los Angeles)
Zoom is possible, though not preferable

Facilitator: Fr. Andrew Andrews

To Sign Up: Contact Fr Andrew at (213) 374-0219 by December 31

This eight week program is based upon the Bereavement Group Curriculum found in the new book *Memory Eternal: Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians* by Sarah Byrne-Martelli, MDiv, DMin. It is available through Ancient Faith Publishing. All people struggling with grief are encouraged to purchase and read the book.

Christmas Day, and runs to January 5, the day before Theophany, the next great feast. The 'food fast' is most intense on the 12 days preceding December 25, and there is no fasting on the 12 days after Christmas, not on Wednesday or Friday! Again, what do you think this tells us?

It is interesting to note that historically we do not have an exact date of Jesus birth. The date of His Nativity was specifically selected by the early Church to coincide with the pagan celebrations held in late December. They were rather riotous and foolish in nature, not becoming of a follower of Christ. Thus, this date had a dual purpose: (1) to mark the Lord's coming to earth in human form, and (2) to do it at a time which would help defeat an attitude and lifestyle which went against the Lord's teachings. The early Church leaders knew that these Christians struggled with the temptation to return to their former ways. Once again, what would you think this tells us? The Orthodox tradition is clearly not to "pre-celebrate" Christmas, but rather to withhold the celebration until the designated time. Once it arrives, we are to celebrate it joyously, not with over riotous activity as did the pagans. Some 40 or 50 years ago here in America, people decorated their Christmas trees on Christmas Eve. Slowly, through the influence of merchants and media, we started to put up our decorations and trees earlier and earlier each year. As a result, we take them down earlier and earlier, not waiting for the Theophany observances of January 5-7, which are specifically part of the 12-day cycle beginning on Christmas.

Every year there are more and more parties held during the height of the Christmas Fast, instead of during the festive period of December 25-January 5. On the day after Christmas, we hear people say that Christmas is over, and the Christmas trees are out on the curb. Since they have pre-decorated and pre-celebrated and feasted, in their minds "it's over", when really it should just be beginning.

I offer the following practical applications of our Orthodox theology and practice:

- Do decorate, but don't pre-decorate. Use the December 6-20 guide as a starting point.
- Do celebrate, but don't pre-celebrate. Use the December 25-January 5 timeframe for your festivities.



The Scriptures instruct us: "In all things be not like the pagans, but rather calm, joyful in praise and giving of love to glorify Christ who came for us." Since we Christians are called to be "in the world, but not of the world", we are to transform the world and not have the secular world transform us. Secularism has crept into our Christmas observances. It is up to us as individuals to purify the celebration.

This begins with our families, our households, doing the more proper and fitting things and teaching others to do likewise by example. I urge you to plan for a Christmas observance that will hold true to our Orthodox view and pattern for celebration.

By Fr. Andrew George, Pastor of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Cranston, Rhode Island, edited for Orthodox Family Life by Phyllis Meshel Onest

Super Star
Michel Achkar
Live Singer & DJ
Full Dinner, Mezza, Sodas,
Adult Beverages and Desserts

Ticket \$155
Per seat
Age 5-12 Ticket \$55
Special seating and menu
Baby Sitting Service \$35 per Child

2023

St. Nicholas Cathedral
New Year's Eve Celebration

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Starts at 8:00 PM Saturday Dec. 31, 2022 at 2300 W. 3rd Street Los Angeles CA, 90057

For reservations please call the office at: 213-382-6269
Text: 909-922-8092 or stop by the New Year's table in the Hall on Sunday.

You can get tickets online at <https://stnicholasla.com/newyeareve.html>

CATHEDRAL PRAYER LIST

Please include in your daily prayers the following—those struggling with acute illness and those newly departed this life—from our parishioners and those for whom they have requested our prayers. (Names are kept for 40 days, the date indicated after the name, and may be renewed upon request.)

LIVING

Fr. Andrew Andrews, to undergo surgery, 1/25

Thomas Saliba, home, 1/13

Malaka Adam Kawough, home, 1/12

Clemence Gedeon, nursing home, 1/10

Evonne Chala, hospital, 1/2

Julian E. Capata, home, 12/31

Malak Kaouk, uncle of Christine Maalouf, 1/4

Mariana Gantus Wall, former member of the Cathedral, 1/4

Ernest Simon, former member of the Cathedral, 12/19

All those suffering from illness, violence and want in this country, in Ukraine and throughout the world

DEPARTED

Archbp. Chrysostomos (Cyprus), 12/17

Elvira Rihbany, 1/13

Fayez Habash, 12/28

Victoria Rehbandy, 12/21

Imad Khalil, brother of Amal Khalil Algharbi, 1/11

Marie Brooks, relative of Diane Brooks, 1/10

Mary Dibs, sister of Mabel Mona and former Diocese AOCWNA President, 1/7

Olga “Rosette” Karam Tahan, former member of the Cathedral, 12/22

Marlene Ann Yered, aunt of Joe Yered, 12/20

Victims of violence in Ukraine and everywhere

ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

December 2022

Sun. 11	Spanish Mission Liturgy , 7:45 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellowship and Bible Study in Spanish Matins , 9:15 am Divine Liturgy , 10:30 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church School • Coffee Hour
Mon. 12	Cathedral Council meeting, 7 pm
Tue. 13	<i>Feast of St. Herman of Alaska</i> Matins , 9 am Divine Liturgy , 10 am Choir Dinner and Practice with Mareena Boosamra-Ball, 6:30 pm
Wed. 14	Evening Prayer , 6:30 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner • Bible Study classes: “Faith and Worship,” & “Life as Mystery”
Sat. 17	FOCUS Charity Christmas Celebration and Food Distribution , 8:30 am Great Vespers , 6 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception and Q&A with Metropolitan Antonios
Sun. 18	<i>St. Ignatius Sunday</i> Matins , 9 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy , 10:30 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church School • Lunch
Fri. 23	Royal Hours of Christmas , 10 am
Sat. 24	Christmas Eve Matins , 9 am Divine Liturgy for the Paramon of Christmas, 10 am Christmas Matins , 8:30 pm Christmas Divine Liturgy , 10 pm

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR and latest additions and updates at stnicholasla.org/parishcalendar