

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026
TONE 2 / EOTHINON 11
ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW
AFTER-FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
RECOVERY FROM EDESSA OF THE ICON OF CHRIST NOT MADE BY HANDS



St Simeon Orthodox Church

A Parish of the
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
His Eminence Metropolitan Saba - His Grace Bishop Anthony
Rev. Father Andrew Andrews, Pastor
V. Rev. Father George Ajalat, Pastor Emeritus
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VISITORS WELCOME

St. Simeon Orthodox Church welcomes you to our community this Sunday. Please join us at the coffee hour following Liturgy. The table with a **blue tablecloth** is reserved for visitors so that our clergy can meet and chat with you.

Please note that Orthodox Christians must prepare for Holy Communion through recent confession, prayer, and fasting and be at peace with everyone.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Shout with joy to God, all the earth, give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Name. Declare His works among the nations.

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

In the city of our God, in His holy mountain, His place hath been made in peace, and His dwelling in Zion. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

God hath laid her foundation unto eternity. We have thought, O God, of Thy mercy in the midst of Thy people. (*Refrain*)

The most-high hath hallowed His tabernacle. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Ready is my heart, O God, ready is my heart; I will sing and chant in my glory. What shall I render to the Lord for all that He hath given me? I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord.

During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Dormition; then after the entrance, chant these hymns in order:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE DORMITION (Tone 1)

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ICON OF CHRIST (Tone 2)

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. SIMEON (Tone 1)

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection

KONTAKION OF THE DORMITION (Tone 2)

Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions, and whose prayers are never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control. But since she is the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb did translate her to life.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me severely.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:2-12)

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own

expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the Gospel of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (18:23-35)

The Lord spoke this parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

HOLY OBLATIONS

Prayers are offered for **Dr. Janine Ajalat** on her **birthday** with love from David, Eliana, George and Jemma. God grant her many years.

Prayers are offered by Fr. George and Kh. Janine Ajalat for **Dr. Janine Ajalat** as she celebrates her **birthday** this week. God bless you, Janine, with a year filled with many blessings!

Prayers are offered for **Dennis Awad** on the occasion of his **birthday**, offered with love by his wife Angela, the Andonian family, and by the entire St. Simeon Family.

Prayers are offered by John and Natalie LeMar for the health of **Father Jude**, the priest of St. Barbara Monastery, who is being treated for heart conditions, and his wife, **Ma Brigitte**, who recently suffered a broken rib.

Prayers are offered by Dennis and Angela Awad and John and Laura Andonian for **Kristy Maloof** who underwent emergency surgery this week (in advance of her planned surgery which has been delayed). We thank God for her successful procedure and ask that he strengthen her for the procedure to come.

Prayers are offered by the St Simeon Community for **Robert (Nektarios) Lilly** who will be undergoing surgery to his eye. We ask God for a successful procedure and restoration of health.

Prayers are offered by Dn. Seraphim and Sh. Brigid for **Jeremy Babcock** on the occasion of his birthday. May God grant him many years.

Prayers are offered for the repose of the soul of **Mary Saucedo**, and for God's peace and comfort for her daughters Crystal and April and son-in-law, Chris Stinnett and all their family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The St. Barbara Lebanon Relief Fund's 4th Annual Fundraising Dinner will be held on August 22, 2026, at St Nicholas Cathedral in Los Angeles. For more information, please see the flyer on the bulletin board or scan the QR code. Tomorrow, August 17, is the last day to purchase your tickets for the event!



Mark Your Calendar and join us for our **Annual Back-to-Sunday School Family Picnic** on **Sunday, September 13th, from 11am to 2pm!** Everyone is invited to attend. Join us for Faith, Food, Fellowship and FUN! Join us at Duane R. Harte Park (26401 Riverrock Way in Valencia)!

Sunday School begins September 20th. Registration is open now using forms on the table in the Narthex. This year our curriculum will focus on lessons from I and II Corinthians.



We will be holding a **retreat for our Ladies Organization on Saturday, September 5 from 10AM – 2PM at the Church.** Lunch will be provided. The retreat theme is “Our Relationship with God and Each Other: Identity and Intimacy”. It is open to all adult women of St Simeon. Please sign up using the QR code shown here so we can plan for the food. The date was selected by consensus of those who responded to the survey we sent a couple months ago.

Please submit your announcements and oblations to:
bulletin@scvorthodox.com by 9 P.M. on **WEDNESDAY!**

Join us on 1st - 4th Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. to learn more about the Orthodox Faith. Topics include Church Dogma, Theology, Holy Tradition, Scripture, Worship, Prayer, and how to apply these concepts in our lives and conscript them to our hearts.

Epistle Reading Schedule

August 16 - Denise Gavrizescu
August 23-Kiro Kamel

August 30-Mark Nassief
September 6-George Sunnaa

Upcoming Coffee Hour Sponsors		
August 16-Dennis &Angela	September 6-Available	
August 23-Nicole Abraham	September 13-Sunday School	
August 30 -Available	September 20-The Blanski's	
Sign-Up Page: https://tinyurl.com/SCV-Coffee or QR above		

Greeter Schedule
August 16 -George Sunnaa (8:20-9:00); Dennis Awad (9:00-9:40)
August 23 – Alex Heacock (8:20-9:00); John&Natalie (9:00-9:40)

A Preview of our 2026-2027 Sunday School Curriculum

As we begin this year's journey through the First and Second Epistles of St. Paul to the Corinthians, we are deeply grateful for our teachers and their dedication to the sacred ministry of teaching our children. Through their efforts, our children grow not only in their knowledge of the Faith, but also in their love for God and their understanding of what it means to live as members of His Church.

The curriculum's theme is drawn from 1 Corinthians 12:13: "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..." These words remind us that the Church is not simply a gathering of individuals. In Christ, we have been joined together as one Body. Each person is valued, each person has been given gifts, and each person is called to use those gifts in loving service to God and to others. Although we are many and our gifts are different, we are united by the Holy Spirit and belong to one another in Christ.

In the lessons, students will encounter St. Paul as an apostle, teacher, and spiritual father. They will explore his teachings about unity, holiness, humility, spiritual gifts, love, forgiveness, generosity, the Holy Eucharist, and the Resurrection. Through age-appropriate lessons, discussions, activities, crafts, and prayers, we aim to help children understand that they are valued members of the Body of Christ and that God has given each of them gifts to use for His glory and for the good of others.

St. Paul's letters to the Corinthians were written to a young Christian community learning how to live out its new identity in Christ. Corinth was a large, prosperous, and influential city, filled with

many competing beliefs, values, and ways of life. The Christians there had received the Gospel and had become members of the Church, but they still struggled with divisions, pride, conflict, temptation, and confusion about how their faith should shape their daily lives.

The Corinthians needed to remember whose they were.

They belonged to Christ. They were no longer called to live according to the wisdom, pride, and values of the world around them. They had been sanctified through Christ and called to become holy. St. Paul taught them that their bodies were temples of the Holy Spirit, that their gifts were given for the good of the whole Church, and that true greatness is found not in status or recognition, but in humility, sacrifice, and love.

In his Second Epistle to the Corinthians, St. Paul continues to encourage the faithful through teachings about repentance, forgiveness, generosity, suffering, and reconciliation. He shows them that God's power is often revealed through human weakness and that the Christian life is shaped by the Cross. We do not place our confidence in ourselves, but in the grace of God, who strengthens, restores, and makes all things new in Christ.

The Corinthians had been rescued from the brokenness of sin, but they had also been rescued for something: to become the Body of Christ and to reveal His love to the world. They were called to live in unity, to care for one another, to forgive, to serve, and to bear witness to the hope of the Resurrection.

This same calling belongs to us today.

We pray that this curriculum will bless and strengthen our teachers, students and families. We thank our teachers and administrators for offering time, abilities, and love in service to the children entrusted to your care. We thank the parents and families for taking the time to ask their students about what they learned in Sunday School and for continuing the discussion at home. May the Holy Spirit guide your words and actions, and may your classrooms and homes be filled with joy, reverence, unity, and the self-giving love of Christ.