

# St. Simeon Orthodox Christian Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America  
His Eminence Metropolitan Saba - His Grace Bishop Anthony

Rev. Father Andrew Andrews, *Pastor*

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**SUNDAY, JULY 05, 2026**

**TONE 4 / EOTHINON 5**

**VENERABLE ATHANASIUS OF ATHOS**

VENERABLE LAMPADOS OF IRENOUPOLIS; HIEROMARTYR CYPRIAN OF  
MOUNT ATHOS

***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.

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

### APOLYTIKION OF ST. ATHANASIUS OF ATHOS (Tone 3)

(\*\**Awed by the beauty*\*\*)

The Angels' ranks were awed by thy life in the flesh, \* how, though corporeal, and clad with earthly clay, \* thou didst set forth with courage to invisible wars and wrestlings \* and didst boldly smite the hordes \* of the demons with mortal wounds. \* Wherefore, Christ rewarded thee \* with abundant gifts in return. \* Entreat Him that our souls find salvation, \* O most renowned Father Athanasius.

### 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

### ORDINARY KONTAKION (Tone 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

### THE EPISTLE

(For St. Athanasius)

*The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.  
Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians.**

**(5:22-6:2)**

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provocation of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

### THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)**

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

### HOLY OBLATIONS

Prayers are offered by **Fr. George and Kh. Janine Ajalat, David and Janine Ajalat, and George & Jemma** for their granddaughter, daughter and sister **Eliana Nicolette Ajalat**, as she celebrates her **10th birthday**. God bless you, Eliana, with a year filled with many fabulous moments and much joy.

Prayers are offered for the infants and toddlers **Nicolas, Alan Campos, Jesus A, Sebastian, Isabela Marie, Jovanny, Zara**

**Victoria, Selene, Esteban, Ivan, Oneida, and Camila** at Casa Cuna San Felipe Orphanage.

Prayers are offered by **George, Nicholas and Christopher Dabbour** for **Josephine Dabbour and Peter Dabbour** on the occasion of their birthdays. God grant you many years.

Prayers are offered for all those of our community attending the Parish Life Conference this weekend, and asking God to deliver them safely home.

Prayers are offered, on the occasion of our nation's 250's anniversary, for all those who lost their lives in the defense of peace and freedom in this country and on its behalf throughout the world, and also for our current civil authorities asking that our Lord will speak peace and blessing in their hearts for His holy Church and for all His peoples, in order that we may live a calm and peaceful life, in all reverence and godliness.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

From now through the end of July, the coffee hour proceeds will be directed to an Outreach Program to provide 48 backpacks filled with school supplies to a local Santa Clarita school. To donate directly to this project, use the QR code in this message.



We will be hosting the Camp St Nicholas Counselors and Staff on **Thursday, July 9 at 5:30 PM**. We'll serve Vespers and then have a BBQ dinner followed by a Town Hall. All those who love camp, and especially those who have children or grandchildren who may attend or have attended camp, are welcome to be our panel of adults who can speak to the responsibility of caring for someone else's children. Please let Fr. Andrew know if you can attend (this is not an event for the campers).

Women of St Simeon, mark your calendars! Fr Andrew will be holding a **Women's Retreat at St Simeon Church on Saturday, September 5 from 10AM – 2PM**. The topic of the retreat will be Identity and Relationships.

We have enough teens to start a Teen SOYO (the Antiochian Archdiocese Organization for Teenagers). Our first activity will be to stuff the backpacks for the backpack project on **July 18**. If you have a teen in your family, and haven't already received an email from Fr. Andrew – please let him know (as our database of birthdates is not complete).


Don't forget to sign up for the St Simeon Day at Camp St Nicholas on **August 15**. See the flyer on the last page of the bulletin. We have a few people already signed up, but we would like this to include all who are able to attend. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board and in the bulletin. There is a QR code to help you sign up.

We are working on updating our master records for all our families and expanding them to include birthdates, wedding dates, patron saints (and, sadly, in some cases addresses). Look for a binder on the table in the back of the nave. It's indexed alphabetically. If you could update your family information, we would greatly appreciate it. It's organized by family, with each member of the family listed below the main family record.

Please submit your announcements and oblations to:  
[bulletin@scvorthodox.com](mailto: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 range from Church Dogma, Theology, Holy Tradition, Scripture, Worship, Prayer, and how to apply these concepts in our lives and conscript them to our hearts.

<b>Epistle Reading Schedule</b>	
July 5 - David Cota	July 19 - Bob Lilly
July 12 - Rena Ajalat	July 26-Kade Gray

<b>Coffee Hour Sponsors</b>		
July 5 - Church School	July 26 - Kh. Janine Ajalat	
July 12 - The Lilly Family	August 2 – Available	
July 19 - Jonathan Flint	August 9-Available	
<i>Use the QR Code to Sign Up</i>		

Greeter Schedule
July 5 – Konrad Gubran (8:20-9:00); Konrad Gubran (9:00-9:40)
July 12 – Alex Heacock (8:20-9:00); Magdy Baiady (9:00-9:40)

### **Reflections on our Nation's Semiquincentennial Anniversary**

*By Fr. Andrew Andrews (with help from the Holy Synod of the OCA)*

Two-hundred and fifty years ago, the Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence which would be formally signed in the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House (now called Independence Hall) a month later. This document begins with these famous words: *“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

These were bold words. Some would call them “fightin’ words”. They are words of courage that could lead to martyrdom to their cause. Of course, on the other side of the argument these would be considered treasonous words which would lead to execution. Indeed, the War that this declaration precipitated took around 25,000 American lives, the second largest loss of American lives in any US conflict proportional to the population. A great price to secure our right to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

I would like to reflect a moment on Thomas Jefferson's statement that “all men are created equal”. It is certain that Mr. Jefferson did not believe this statement truly applied to all men. These words were intended to speak to the inequity of a hereditary monarch holding authority over the people simply due to birthright. The Declaration goes on to list scores of grievances between the colonies and the monarch to show examples of the inequity of a monarch wielding this sort of power – especially when wielded with imperial impunity.

Even as Jefferson was writing about the equality of all men, there was inequality between peoples in this newly formed nation. In fact, Jefferson's words would be echoed by Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and again by the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, as our nation aspired to fulfill those calls for equality that were penned 250 years ago.

In reflecting on our nation's aspirations for equality for its people and the Church's place as a reflection of God's Kingdom on earth, the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America offered these thoughts: *We are committed to the cultivation of peace, the promotion of human dignity, the practice of charity, and the witness of reconciliation in a society that stands in great need of all these gifts.*

*In this regard, we recall with appreciation the aspiration expressed at the very founding of this republic. President George Washington, writing in 1790, articulated a vision of civic life that went beyond the mere tolerance of religious difference to something more generous:*

*"All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights."*

*This aspiration—that religious liberty is not a concession granted by the powerful to the weak, but an inherent right belonging to all persons equally—has made it possible for the Orthodox Church to take root and flourish in this soil. We receive this gift with gratitude, even as we acknowledge with honesty that the distance between founding aspiration and faithful fulfillment has often been great, and that this very tension is itself a summons to continued repentance and renewal. The Church does not exist at the pleasure of the state, nor does she seek dominion over it. Rather, she stands within society as a witness to a Kingdom that exceeds all earthly kingdoms, illumining the civil order with the wisdom of the Gospel and the witness of holy lives.*

*In a moment of rapid and, at times, unsettling change, we offer the unchanging Christ—the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Our parishes are to be places of genuine welcome, of profound worship, and of selfless love where our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is always manifested. Our contribution to America is not power, not politics, but the presence of the living God among His people.*

For us as Orthodox Christians, the pursuit of happiness is the pursuit of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). Indeed, it is through this pursuit that we may find life (in Christ) and liberty (from the passions).



Camp St. Nicholas  
11770 Frontier Road  
Frazier Park, CA

47 Miles North of  
St Simeon Church

# ST SIMEON COMMUNITY DAY AT CAMP

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**SATURDAY**  
**AUGUST 15, 2026**  
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Scan to  
Register:



**Cost: \$45/person. Under 12 \$30/person. Under 6 no charge.**

(A Small Transaction Fee to Cover our Payment Method Servicing Fee Will Be Applied)

## SCHEDULE

- 8:30AM Divine Liturgy for Dormition @ St Simeon
- 10:00 Travel to Camp for 11:00AM Arrival
- 11:30AM Akathist: Glory to God for All Things At Shrine
- 12:00PM Get Ready for Pool Party
- 12:30PM Lunch By Pool, Swimming, Games, Sports, Crafts
- 3:00PM Change Clothes, Camp Store, Rest
- 4:00PM Spiritual Discussion in Chapel
- 5:00PM Great Vespers in Chapel
- 6:00PM Dinner
- After Dinner - Visit and Depart at Your Leisure

## WHAT TO BRING?

- Casual Attire
- Pool Clothes and Towel
- Long Pants for Vespers
- Balls for Sports Activities
- Board Games
- Sunscreen and Hat
- Reusable Water Bottle
- Musical Instruments

For more information email [frandrew@scvorthodox.com](mailto:frandrew@scvorthodox.com)