

ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY



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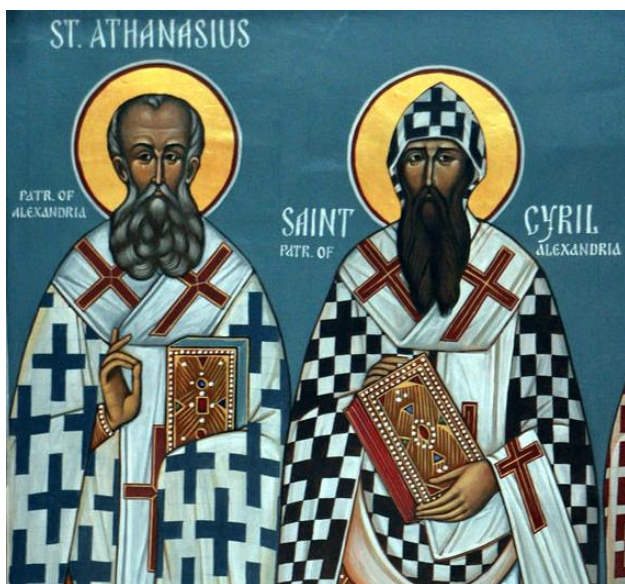
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026 - TONE 7/EOTHINON 10
ATHANASIOS AND CYRIL PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA
& TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

MARTYR THEODOULA OF ANAZARBUS AND HER COMPANIONS;
MAXIMOS, SERBIAN RULER

VISITORS WELCOME!
***“The Newest Church in Santa Clarita
is the Oldest Church in the World.”***

St. Simeon Orthodox Church welcomes all of you to our community this Sunday- for truly, ***“This is the Day that the Lord has made.”*** We are honored to have you worship with us. Please join us at the coffee hour following Liturgy. We have set up a **table with a blue tablecloth** for visitors so that **Fr. George, Fr. Andrew**, or one of the **Deacons** can meet and chat with you after Liturgy. May our Lord bless you and your families.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF SS. ATHANASIOUS AND CYRIL
IN TONE THREE

(***Thy confession***))

Shining forth with works of Orthodoxy, * ye quenched every false belief and teaching * and became trophy-bearers and conquerors. * And since ye made all things rich with true piety, * greatly adorning the Church with magnificence, * Athanasius and wise Cyril, ye justly found Christ God, * Who through your prayers doth grant Great Mercy unto all.

TROPARION FOR ST. SIMEON IN TONE ONE

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 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

THE EPISTLE

(For Ss. Athanasius and Cyril)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou are justified in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (13:7-16)

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore, let us go forth to Him outside the camp and bear the abuse He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city, which is to come. Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His Name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Twelfth Sunday of Luke)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (17:12-19)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on

his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our Fathers among the saints Athanasius and Cyril, patriarchs of Alexandria, whose memory we celebrate, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young Adults Event: Following Great Vespers on **Saturday, January 24**, our Young Adults will enjoy dinner together (Brisket and Side Dishes) followed by an Ask Abouna session with Fr. George and Fr. Andrew. Use <https://tinyurl.com/SCVYAM1-24> to sign up. **Deadline to sign up is January 19.**

Men's Fellowship Event: Following Great Vespers on **Saturday, January 31**, Men's Fellowship will enjoy an evening of discussion with Fr. George and Fr. Andrew, followed by dinner at Wolf Creek Restaurant at 27746 McBean Pkwy, Valencia. Please contact Jeff Abraham (310-880-7403) or jabraham009@gmail.com if you would like to attend!

Home Blessing Season: Beginning with the Great Feast of Theophany, it is our tradition to come to the homes of our parishioners bringing the "Jordan Water" from that Great Feast. It is fitting to sanctify our homes, the place where we spend the majority of our time, and pray for those who dwell therein each year. To sign up to have your home blessed, you can use the website <https://hb.fatherandrewa.org>. If you aren't technology savvy, just call or email Fr. Andrew.

Our Patronal Feast Day: It has been our tradition to celebrate the Feast Day of our Parish Community on the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. This year, the feast is on a Monday (always February 2). We will serve Festal Vespers for the Feast on Sunday night, February 1, at 5:30 p.m. We will also serve the Festal Orthros and Divine Liturgy on Monday morning, February 2, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

FOR CATECHUMENS, INQUIRERS AND FOR EVERYONE

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.

If you would like to host Coffee Hour, please contact Tracy Kuncar at 818-402-7994 or tkuncar@icloud.com

Epistle Reading Schedule

Jan 18, Denise Theberg



Jan 25, Alex Nassief

St Simeon's Greeter Schedule

Jan 18, Sh. Mary (8:20-8:50), Denise Gavrizescu (9:10-9:40)

Jan 25, Larysa Lilly (8:20-8:50), Svetlana Onthank (9:10-9:40)

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

THOUGHT ON HOME BLESSINGS

Since we are reminded in Scripture to begin whatever we do with prayer, it has been the practice of Orthodox Christians for centuries to have new dwellings blessed either before or just after settling in. This has been extended to one's business or office, and even college dorm rooms.

From Scripture we know that whatever God created was good, but with "the Fall", evil entered the world, corrupting the creation. God the Father sent His Son Jesus to save it by effecting a "new creation". This is celebrated at Theophany, specifically with the Great Blessing of Water. "The consecration of the waters on this feast places the entire world - through its 'prime element' of water - in the perspective of the cosmic creation, sanctification, and glorification of the Kingdom of God in Christ and the Spirit." (The Orthodox Faith, Vol. II, Worship, by Fr. Thomas Hopko, p.127.)

All the readings, hymns, prayers, and actions of the day speak of God's presence in our entire world and universe, His creation. Through water all of the creation is once again sanctified by God, becoming good again, the way God had intended.

Since our homes cannot be brought to the Church, the Church - through the priest - goes to the homes. There the service of blessing, which began in the church, is finished with the sprinkling of water in the home. Traditionally, in most Orthodox parishes, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our living quarters, our private place, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings.

We also bring the blessed water to our homes to use throughout the year to bless our homes and to drink, whether we are ill or as part of our daily prayer life. "There are many occasions in family life when a sip of holy water can help to remind us of the blessing that was given 'to bestow sanctification', 'unto healing of soul and body', 'to be a fountain welling forth unto life eternal', as the priest prayed in the litany of Epiphany day." (Little Falcons: Water, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1998, p.33.)

The blessing of homes by these holy waters maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings." (Marriage and the Christian Home, p.25.)

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!



Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.