

ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY

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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 8

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: THE BLIND MAN

**APOSTLES ANDRONIKOS AND JUNIA OF THE SEVENTY; ATHANASIOS THE NEW,
BISHOP OF CHRISTIANOPOLIS**

VISITORS WELCOME!

St. Simeon Orthodox Church welcomes 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 our clergy can meet and chat with you after Liturgy. May our Lord bless you and your families.

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

Verse: Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

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

Verse: Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. (*Refrain*)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Verse: May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

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

Verse: That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the people give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the people give thanks to Thee. (*Refrain*)

Verse: May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. (*Refrain*)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Verse: Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and 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!

Verse: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire. (*Refrain*)

Verse: So let sinners perish before the face of God, and let the righteous be glad. (*Refrain*)

Verse: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (*Refrain*)

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA (Tone 8)

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

THE EPISTLE

Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us.

Save me, O Lord, for the godly man is no more.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (16:16-34)

In those days, while we the apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination, who brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, and cried out saying: "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And she did this for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit: "I charge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that the hope of their gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said: "These men are disturbing our city, and they, being Jews, are setting forth customs which are not lawful for us to receive or observe, since we are Romans." The multitude then rose up together against them, and the magistrates tore their garments off them, and commanded to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received such a charge, he cast them into the inner prison, and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. And the jailer, being roused out of sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out with a loud voice saying: "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and fell down before Paul and Silas trembling with fear, and brought them out and said: "Masters, what must I do to be saved?" And they said: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him, and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes, and was baptized, he and his entire household. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them, and

rejoiced greatly, with his entire house, in that he had believed in God.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man’s eyes with the clay, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam,” which means “Sent.” So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, “Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he;” others said, “No, but he is like him.” He said, “I am the man.” They said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, “What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had

already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA (Tone 1)

The Angel cried to the Lady Full of Grace: Rejoice, Rejoice O Pure Virgin! Again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is Risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead! Rejoice, Rejoice all ye people!

Shine! Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The Glory of the Lord has shone on you! Exult now Exult and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection, the Resurrection of your Son!

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA IN TONE

EIGHT

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of
immortality.

Language	Priest	People
English	Christ is Risen!	Truly, He is Risen!
Arabic	Al Maseeh Qam!	Haqan Qam!
Greek	Kristos Anesti!	Alithos Anesti!
Russian	Kristos Voskressey!	Voyistino Voskresey!
Romanian	Kristos a Inviat!	Adeverat a Inviat!
Spanish	Christo ha Resucitado!	En Verdad ha Resucitado!

HOLY OBLATIONS

Prayers are offered for the good health of **Mark Theberge**, offered by his wife **Denise** and family.

Prayers are offered by **Fr. George and Kh. Janine** for their son, **Mark**, as he celebrates his birthday tomorrow. May God grant you many, many more, Barko!! We love you!

Prayers are offered by **Fr. Andrew and Fr. George** for the health and all of God's blessings to the St Simeon Gala Committee Leadership Team (**Mark Nassief, Tracy Kuncar, David Ajalat, Nicole Abraham, and Kh. Ruth Andrews**) and all those who volunteered their time and talents to make our Gala a resounding success.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The community of St Simeon welcomes His Grace, Bishop Anthony, serving with us today. Many years, master.

We also welcome all our guests who came from out of the area for the Gala and stayed to worship with us this Sunday. Thank you all for your love for our community. May God grant you safe travels.

This Wednesday, May 20, we will serve Great Vespers for the Feast of the Ascension at 5:30PM. The Festal Divine Liturgy will be served on Thursday, May 21, at 7:30AM.

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.

Coffee Hour Sponsors-Six Week Look Ahead

May 17 - Lily Ajalat and Family
May 24 - Glen Woshnak
May 31-Souad Alyousef

June 7 - Jeff and Nicole Abraham
June 14-Available
June 21-Lama Yazigi Abousamra

Sign-Up Page:
<https://tinyurl.com/SCV-Coffee>



Epistle Reading Schedule

May 17 – Rusty Blanski
May 24-Larry Resendez

May 31-Logan Resendez
June 7-Tracy Kuncar

Greeter Schedule

May 17 – Alex Heacock (8:20-9:00); Joanna Mahfouz (9:00-9:40)
May 24 –Logan Resendez (8:20-9:00); Caleb and David (9:00-9:40)

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

Thoughts on Spiritual Blindness

If it is a disaster for a blind man not to see the sun, how great is the disaster for a Christian not to pray continuously and not to bring the light of Christ into his soul through prayer.” (St. John Chrysostom)

A blind person who undertakes to guide others is a deceiver plunging into the pit of destruction those who follow him. (St. Symeon the New Theologian)

The sin leaves on us such a stain that cannot be washed even with thousand wells, but only tears of repentance. When there are no tears of repentance, which purify the soul, the soul will go blind. (St. John Chrysostom)

“Humility and ascetic hardship free a man from all sin, for the one cuts out the passions of the soul, the other those of the body. It is for this reason that the Lord says: 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God' (Matt. 5:8). They shall see God and the riches that are in Him when they have purified themselves through love and self-control; and the greater their purity, the more they will see.” (St. Hesychios the Priest)