

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, MARCH 15, 2026

TONE 7 / EOTHINON 7

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

MARTYR AGAPIOS OF PALESTINE AND THOSE WITH HIM; APOSTLE ARISTOBOULOS OF THE SEVENTY, FIRST BISHOP OF BRITAIN; NEW-MARTYRS MANUEL OF CRETE AND PARTHENIOS

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT****

VISITORS WELCOME!

“The newest Church in Santa Clarita; the oldest Church in the World.”

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.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, has been signed upon us. Thou hast given to those that fear thee a sign, to flee from the bow.

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

Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captivity captive. Thou hast given an inheritance to those that fear Thy Name, O Lord.

(Refrain)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Let us worship at the place where His feet have stood.

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

God is our King before the ages; He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth. ***(Refrain)***

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth. ***(Refrain)***

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool. O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Feed them, and lift them up forever.

*During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the **Holy Cross**.*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN (Tone 7)

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 FOR THE HOLY CROSS (Tone 1)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

TROPARION FOR 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 FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (Tone 8)

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify. (*thrice*)

THE EPISTLE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one Who has been in all points

tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God, that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins; who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee." As He says also in another place, "Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

(8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION

All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee.

KOINONIKON FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, hath been signed upon us.
Alleluia.

*Post-Communion Hymn: Instead of "We have seen the true light,"
sing the Apolytikion of the Holy Cross.*

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—which we venerate today—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, Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, 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, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

HOLY OBLATIONS

Happy 19th Birthday **Joseph**. Love you and may God grant you many blessings! from Christian, Hanin, Ahed, Kristy, and Danny.

God's blessings for **Joseph Kastoun** as he celebrates his birthday. May God continue to guide him and grant him many years. Offered with love by Kristy, and all of St. Simeon's family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Charity Outreach has partnered with the Santa Clarity Veterans Services to provide toiletries to veterans and their families. **This Sunday is the last day to drop off toiletries.**

March is Antiochian Women's Month. All proceeds from our March Coffee Hours will go towards supporting the Antiochian Women 2026 Project: **The Widowed Clergy Wives fund.**

Any women of the parish interested in attending the Annunciation Tea at St. Michael Church in Van Nuys on March 21, and hearing Fr. George speak to the group, should see Kh. Ruth or Kh. Janine.

Tickets are now available for our **Gala** celebration on May 16. Use this QR code to secure your spot. We hope that all our community will be able to attend this event. If the cost of admission is prohibitive, please speak confidentially to Fr. Andrew.



The 2026 Parish Life Conference will be hosted by St. George Church in San Diego, CA, from July 1st through the 5th, at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina! We would like to field multiple Bible Bowl teams to compete on Friday evening, July 3. There are 4 divisions: Adult (Ages 20 and older), Senior (16-19 years old), Junior (13-15 years old), and Pre-Teens (10-12 years old). For more information see Fr. Andrew or Steve Verba, or visit the website <https://www.antiochianevents.com/los-angeles>.

We are pleased to announce that the results are in and the parish council members elected to a three year term (in alphabetical order) are: Sam Abousamra, John Andonian and Tracy Kuncar. In addition, the council met electronically this week and elected George Sunnaa to fill a vacated spot on the council (with two years remaining in that term). Separately, Fr. Andrew appointed Jeff Abraham to serve a three year term on the council. May God bless the work of these newly elected and appointed council members. We will induct them formally with prayer at the end of the Divine Liturgy on March 22.

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

Mar 15-Hanin & Ahed Kastoun
March 22-Kristy Maloof
March 29-Raluca Cadar

April 5-Parish Council
April 19, Angela Rohan
April 26, Paulina and Narek

If you would like to host Coffee Hour, please pick a date using our Sign-Up Page: <https://tinyurl.com/SCV-Coffee>.

Epistle Reading Schedule

March 15, Sh. Mary

March 29, Ramona Blanski

March 22, Nicole Abraham

April 5, Michael Dabbour

St Simeon's Greeter Schedule

March 15, Larysa Lilly (8:20-8:50), Jon Flint (9:10-9:40)

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

A Hope to Carry Us: Reflections on the Holy Cross (edited)

Fr. George Shalhoub

Today, in the midst of world fear, we celebrate the Veneration of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross. The church has placed before our eyes prayer to sustain us, faith to feed us, and hope to carry us.

What is the Cross of Christ? The Cross of Christ, as the prayer of the church states, is the guardian of the universe and the strength of the faithful. The Cross is the beauty of the church. The Cross is the glory of angels. It is indeed the wounding of demons.

The Holy Cross is raised in the middle of the Great Lent to remind us that Lent is not all about food, it is about self-conversion by repentance and spiritual renewal and self-control for what good it is to abstain from eating meat and in return devour each other. The Cross of Christ gives us the courage to say "...remember me, O Lord, in Your Kingdom here on earth and the Kingdom to come."

Saint Tertullian, some two thousand years ago, emphasized the power that believers must practice making the sign of the cross. "In

all our travels and movements, in all our coming in and going out, in putting on our shoes, at the bath, at the table, in lighting our candles, in lying down, in sitting down, whatever employment occupies us, we ought to bless ourselves with the sign of the Cross.” Likewise, Saint Cyril of Jerusalem called the Sign of the Cross a badge of the faithful and a terror to the devils who seek to harm us.

Let the Cross, as our seal, be boldly made with our fingers upon our brow and on all occasions; over the bread we eat, over the cups we drink; in our comings and in our goings; before sleep; on lying down and rising up; when we are on our way, and when we are still. It is a powerful safeguard ... for it is a grace from God, a badge of the faithful, a terror to the devils ... For when they see the cross they are reminded of the crucified; they fear Him Who has smashed the heads of dragons. The sign of the Cross is not simply a way to begin prayer. It is in itself a powerful prayer, a blessing on our lives.

Nothing in this world can give us hope more than the Cross of our Lord because the fear and panic of the world takes hope away from us. "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You, O Lord." (Psalm 56:3) "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but the power of love and a sound mind." (II Timothy 1:7)

I was taught by my mother how to make the Sign of the Cross before learning the Lord's prayer, because the Sign of the Cross is a prayer, "the Father is my hope, the Son is my refuge, and the Holy Spirit is my protection. In Thee, O Mother of God, I place all my hope."

