Sunday, November 29, 2026
Tone 1 / Eothinon 4

Martyr Paramonos and the 370 Martyrs in Bithynia; Martyr Philoumenos of Ancyra; Venerable Akakios of Sinai

St Simeon Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
His Eminence Metropolitan Saba - His Grace Bishop Anthony
Rev. Father Andrew Andrews, Pastor
V. Rev. Father George Ajalat, Pastor Emeritus
Deacon Stephen Heffelfinger - Deacon Seraphim Gilmartin
Subdeacon Mark Nassief - Subdeacon Michael Smith
28042 Ave. Stanford, Suite D, Santa Clarita, CA 91355
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 800992 Santa Clarita, CA 91380
www.scvorthodox.com - (626) 460-1110 - office@scvorthodox.com

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 with you.

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent confession may participate in Holy Communion. We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting the life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the heavens cried out to Thee, O Life-giver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom, Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

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 OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY (Tone 3)

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost)

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what

the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Thirteenth Sunday of Luke)

The reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

HOLY OBLATIONS

Prayers are offered for **Nicole Abraham** on the occasion of her **birthday.** May God grant you many years! Offered by her loving parents, Father George and Khourieh Janine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us as we continue our weekly **Bible Study** at the Church **every Tuesday** evening, starting at **6:30 PM.** We also offer a video conference option for those who are farther away.

For the remainder of the year, we are collecting food items for the Santa Clarita Food Pantry. Please bring items from the list posted at the donation box by Fr Andrew's office.

Join us on **1st - 4th Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.** to learn about the Orthodox Faith. Topics include Dogma, Theology, Holy Tradition, Scripture, Worship, Prayer, and how to apply these concepts in our lives and conscript them to our hearts. We have a Google Meet option for those who cannot make it to Santa Clarita but come in person if you are able.

Save the Date: Our Men's Fellowship will meet again on Saturday, December 5 at 9:00AM at California Spectrum Care (the same location as last month) for our next Lionheart Session.

Save the Date: Our annual Ladies Holiday Gathering will be held at St. Simeon Church on Thursday, December 10 at 6:30PM.

Save the Date: Our first meeting of the Fellowship of St Julian of Homs will be held at the church immediately following Great Vespers on December 12. This organization is open to all who work in the healing ministries (physicians, mental health professionals, clergy, social workers, physical/occupational/speech therapists, etc.

Nativity Service Schedule

Thursday, Dec 24: 9:00AM – Royal Hours of the Nativity
Thursday, Dec 24: 4:00PM – Vesperal Liturgy of the Nativity
Friday, Dec 25: 8:30AM – Orthros of the Nativity
Friday, Dec 25: 9:30AM – Divine Liturgy of the Nativity

Teaching Schedule for December

Bible Studies: December 1 & 8
Catechism Class: December 5, 12, 19

Catechism will begin again on Saturday, January 9.
Bible Study begins again date TBD after Fr Andrew's surgery.

Quote for the Day

There is nothing so pleasing to God as for a man to be thankful.

St John Chrysostom (~347AD – 407AD)

Submissions for the bulletin must be received at bulletin@scvorthodox.com by 9:00 PM on Wednesday!

Epistle Reading Schedule	
November 29-Logan Resendez	December 13-Dennis Awad
December 6-Nicole Abraham	December 20-Samantha Nassief
Greeter Schedule	
November 29- Alex Heacock (8:20-9:00); Svetlana Onthank (9:00-9:40)	
December 6-Konrad Gubran (8:20-9:00); Konrad Gubran (9:00-9:40)	
Coffee Hour Schedule	
November 29-**Available**	December 20-Angela Awad
December 6-Svetlana Onthank	December 27-**Available**
December 13-Church School	January 3-**Available**
https://calendar.app.google/PtR1hvw3pvfgoM1N6 *Or use this QR*	

Let us Rejoice and Give Thanks

Metropolitan Saba

Gratitude, my dear friends, is a quintessential Christian virtue. A person who appreciates God's grace and understands the importance of His blessings in their life is always grateful. The Holy Scriptures repeatedly urge us to always give thanks without ever growing weary of it. Grateful persons rejoice in what they have, whether much or little. They are content with what they have, whether great or small. They are satisfied with what they possess and calmly seek better things, without fuss, without agitation, without inner turmoil. They are filled with their Lord and look to Him first and foremost, and from Him they draw every other gift. As long as God, the source of life, is with them, they never feel lacking.

When we grumble, when we complain, when we are not satisfied with what we have, and when we are troubled because we want more, we are expressing, indirectly, that we have not yet had enough of our Lord, and that we have not yet grasped, as we should, the purpose of the Christian life.

Our era, my dear friends, is a consumerist era par excellence. As you know, it compels us to work harder to earn more money so that we can spend more. The cycle continues in a closed loop, and we remain in a frantic pursuit of more work, more earnings, more spending, and so on.

But the real tragedy lies in the fact that the further we progress on this economic journey, the more possessions we feel we need, and so we remain dissatisfied, constantly demanding, forgetting even to appreciate what we have and what we possess.

Joy has become rare in these troubled times. Moments of delight may be available from time to time, but true joy is far away. Why? Because the desire for what we need – or what we think we need – is stronger than the joy of enjoying what we have.

In one of his letters, the Evangelist John warns us that everything in this world is driven by the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). The Apostle Paul urges believers to beware of and avoid these desires (Gal. 5:19-21). Why? Because the desires of this world are endless, never truly satisfying, and consequently, they drive us to constantly seek them. Experience teaches us that the disappointment that follows is immeasurably greater than the pleasure of indulging in them. The pursuit of desires leads from one disappointment to another.

The fountain of life is within us, yet we go, as the prophet Jeremiah says, to dig broken cisterns that cannot hold water (2:13). We have "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), yet we neglect it and pursue a glittering allure that captivates our hearts and deceives us with the illusion of attaining fulfillment. We forget what He has given us and forget this ever-flowing, inexhaustible fountain, and instead seek polluted waters in different places.

The tragedy of our modern world is that it makes us forget gratitude, and consequently, all the blessings we enjoy. Our world constantly tries to open our eyes to new, deceptive, and illusory things, making us believe they are essential and indispensable. This is why the wise, guided by the Gospel, rejoice in what they have and thank God for it. We enjoy good health, but we only appreciate it when we fall ill! We can see. Isn't sight a blessing? We only truly appreciate it when we see a blind person! We can walk. Well, that too is a blessing. But we don't give thanks for it, nor do we recognize its value, until we see a disabled person! There are countless things in our lives that should make us give thanks joyfully and gratefully, and we must truly see them.

One of our contemporary spiritual fathers said, "If we were to give thanks for everything, we would have no time to complain." Complaining means not being thankful, not being grateful, and not being content with the good things the Lord has given us. It also means that we are not satisfied with our Lord and that we are not content with our situation.

Someone might ask: Should we be content with what we have and not strive for better? Doesn't a Christian have the right to be ambitious? Don't

we, as Christians, have the right to ask for the best? Yes, certainly. We have all these rights, but with a spirit of gratitude, a spirit of contentment and joy, a spirit of thankfulness for what we have. We ask for the best quietly, not noisily. We ask for the best knowing that the very best is to be in the Lord's presence, and from there, by the Lord's grace, we improve not only ourselves but the whole world around us. This is not only a right, but also our duty. It is our duty to make our world a reflection of the Kingdom of Heaven. But if we are always angry, always complaining, always resentful, always sad, always restless, always agitated, how can we improve ourselves and improve our world?

Once there was a priest thrown into solitary confinement during the days of communist religious persecution in Russia. He spent many years in his solitary cell. There was only a small window at the top of the room through which light entered. Every day, he would recite a prayer of thanksgiving, which he had written on the walls of his cell. It was a prayer overflowing with gratitude to God, thanking Him that there were people who could see the light of heaven and rejoice, that there were people who could hear the birds chirping and rejoice, that there were people who could eat and drink whatever they wanted and rejoice. He, deprived of everything, thought of others who had been given what they needed, and he rejoiced for them and thanked God for giving it to them. Where are we in relation to such a contemporary example?

This example encourages us to rise to the required Christian spiritual level, and teaches us to give thanks at all times, not just with our lips, but with our hearts.

Let us learn well and remember today that true joy is found in Christ. "I bring you good news of great joy: to you a Savior has been born" (Luke 2:10-11). Does not the Gospel begin with this good news? Let us not forget, beloved, that the greatest joy is within us; we only need to open our eyes and see it. May God perpetuate joy in your lives, in your hearts, and in your homes, always. Amen.

Date	Time	Event
Su 11/29	8:30AM	Sunday Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy
Tu 12/1	6:30PM	Bible Study
Sa 12/5	9:00AM	Men's Fellowship Meeting
Sa 12/5	9A-5P	Camp St Nicholas Christmas Market
Sa 12/5	4:00PM	Catechism
Sa 12/5	5:30PM	Vespers followed by Confessions
Su 12/6	8:30AM	Sunday Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy
Tu 12/8	6:30PM	Bible Study
Th 12/10	6:30PM	Ladies Christmas Gathering and Dinner
Sa 12/12	4:00PM	Catechism
Sa 12/12	5:30PM	Vespers followed by Confessions
Sa 12/12	6:30PM	St. Julian of Homs Healing Ministry Event
Su 12/13	8:30AM	Sunday Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy
Su 12/13	11:00AM	Sunday School Nativity Program
Tu 12/15	7:30PM	Parish Council Meeting
Sa 12/19	4:00PM	Catechism
Sa 12/19	5:30PM	Vespers followed by Confessions
Su 12/20	8:30AM	Sunday Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy
Th 12/24	9:00AM	Royal Hours of the Nativity
Th 12/24	4:00PM	Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the Nativity
Fr 12/25	8:30AM	Festal Orthros of the Nativity
Fr 12/25	9:30AM	Divine Liturgy of the Nativity
Sa 12/26	5:30PM	Vespers followed by Confessions
Su 12/27	8:30AM	Sunday Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy
Sa 01/02	5:30PM	Vespers followed by Confessions
Su 01/03	8:30AM	Sunday Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy
Tu 01/05	9:00AM	Royal Hours of Theophany
Tu 01/05	5:00PM	Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Theophany and Sanctification of the Waters