



## **ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox  
Christian Archdiocese of North America

*28042 Ave. Stanford, Suite D*

*Santa Clarita, CA 91355*

*Mailing Address: P.O. Box 800992 Santa Clarita, CA 91380*

[www.scvorthodox.com](http://www.scvorthodox.com)

**V. Rev. Fr. George Ajalat, Pastor (626) 460-1110**  
**Gajalat@gmail.com**



**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023  
TONE 6 / EOTHINON 4  
SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY  
CROSS**

MARTYRS SOPHIA AND HER DAUGHTERS FAITH, LOVE AND HOPE

**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. If you are new to our community or simply have any questions, please introduce yourselves to Fr. George after the Divine Liturgy. He would love to meet and chat with you. May our Lord bless you and your families.

**THE FIRST ANTIPHON**

O God, my God, attend to me; why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my salvation are the words of my transgressions.

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

My God, I will cry by day, and wilt Thou not hearken? And by night, and it shall not be unto folly for me. But as for Thee, Thou dwellest in the sanctuary, O Praise of Israel. (*Refrain*)

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

**THE SECOND ANTIPHON**

O God, why hast Thou cast us off unto the end? Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased from the beginning.

***Refrain:*** Save us, O Son of God, Who wast crucified in the flesh; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

This is Mount Zion wherein Thou hast dwelt. (*Refrain*)

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

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

**THE THIRD ANTIPHON**

The Lord reigneth, let the people rage; He sitteth upon the cherubim, let the earth be shaken. The Lord is great in Zion; and He is high

above all peoples. Let them confess Thy great Name, for it is terrible and holy.

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

### APOLYTIKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

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 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 ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE FOUR

*(\*\*Thou Who wast raised up\*\*)*

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

## **THE EPISTLE**

(For Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

*O Lord, how manifold are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (2:16-20)**

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

## **THE GOSPEL**

(For Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

### **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 of 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 He 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."

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead for our salvation, 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—as we now celebrate its Elevation—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 the Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

### **HOLY OBLATIONS**

**Happy Birthday to Daniel Kastoun**, May God grant you many years! from your family Hanin, Ahed, Christian and Joseph. We love you!

Prayers are offered for our **dear Godson Daniel Kastoun** on the occasion of his birthday!! We love you, Danny, and ask our Lord to bless you with an incredible year! Fr. George and Kh. Janine

**In memory** of our beloved father, grandfather, and **Giddee Mitry Ajalat (18 years)** by his loving family. May his memory be eternal.

God's blessings for Daniel Kastoun celebrating his birthday. May god grant you many years! With love from Kristy and your St. Simeon's family.

God's blessings for **Jasmine Mahfouz** as she **celebrates her birthday**. Offered with love by your family at St Simeon and by St Simeon Women's Ministry.

**Please submit your oblations to: [stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com) by 9pm on Wednesday**

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

### Thought for the Week

***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me”***

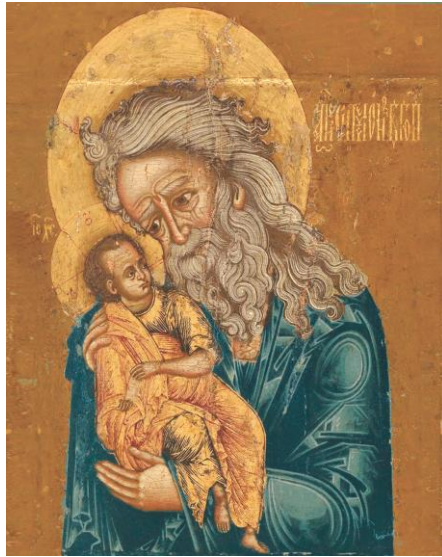
St. Paul on this Sunday after the elevation of the cross tells us what we have been given as Christians and also how we are to live. Each one of us as Christians has been given a marvelous and powerful gift- it is the gift to live life in its fullness, in its completeness. It is a life of freedom; free from all fear and from sin. It is a life that nothing can touch. This life beloved was given to us by the church in Holy Baptism. This is what St. Paul means when he says “I have been crucified with Christ.” He says the same exact thing in Romans, even more explicit- ***“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life..... that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.***

Yes my dear ones in Christ Jesus, we are no longer slaves- that is, unless we return to slavery voluntarily. We are free unless we give up our freedom. We are fully alive, unless we choose to die and we are dead if we do not have Christ living within us. Our lives must live out our Baptism. We must carry the dying of Jesus deep within our bodies- that is we must die to our own will that the will of God might set us free. Every time we choose to humble ourselves in front of others, we taste this freedom. Every time we reject the judgement of others we are crucified with Christ. Every time we forgive someone-unilaterally- even if he does not “deserve” forgiveness- it is Christ Himself who lives in us

and forgives. Every time we sacrifice our own desires for those of our family or friends we die to sin and it shall have no power over us.

To be justified by faith in Jesus Christ is not a legal transaction; it has nothing to do with the “faith vs works” controversy. It is living a life of love, humility, and sacrifice. It is the crucified Christ, living in us, pouring out His love in our hearts. This love then spills forth-in all of our words and deeds- to each whom we encounter. To be justified by faith in Jesus Christ means to live out the great gift that has already been given to each one of us in our Holy Baptism. Amen.

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in  
peace, according to Thy word**



**For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.**