



ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox
Christian Archdiocese of North America
Primate- His Eminence Metropolitan
JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of all North America

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022
TONE 6 / EOTHINON 9; THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
& FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE
HIEROMARTYR CLEMENT, BISHOP OF ANCYRA
MARTYR AGATHANGELOS; PAULINOS, BISHOP OF NOLA**

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 you.

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 ST. CLEMENT OF ANCYRA IN TONE FOUR

Thou didst blossom forth for the faithful, O most sacred Clement, as a branch of holiness, a staff of contest, a most sacred flower, and a sweet God-given fruit. But as a fellow-sufferer of martyrs and a fellow-prelate of hierarchs, intercede with Christ our God that our souls be saved.

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 Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, and didst bless Simeon's hands as was meet. By anticipation hast even Thou saved us O Christ God. But give peace in the midst of wars unto Thy people, and strengthen the faithful whom Thou hast loved, O only lover of mankind.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Thirty-first Sunday after Pentecost)

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee have I cried, O Lord, my God.

**The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy.
(1:15-17)**

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of Ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Fourteenth Sunday of Luke)

**The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
(18:35-43)**

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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 the Hieromartyr Clement, bishop of Ancyra; Martyr Agathangelos; and Paulinos, bishop of Nola, 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.

Please submit your oblations to: stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com by 9pm on Wednesday.

HOLY OBLATIONS

Prayers are offered for Subdeacon George Milan (2013) by the Ajalat, Abraham, and Milan families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23 following Divine Liturgy. Please mark it in your calendar. The Parish Council promises it will not last longer than 30 minutes!

1 23 22 THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

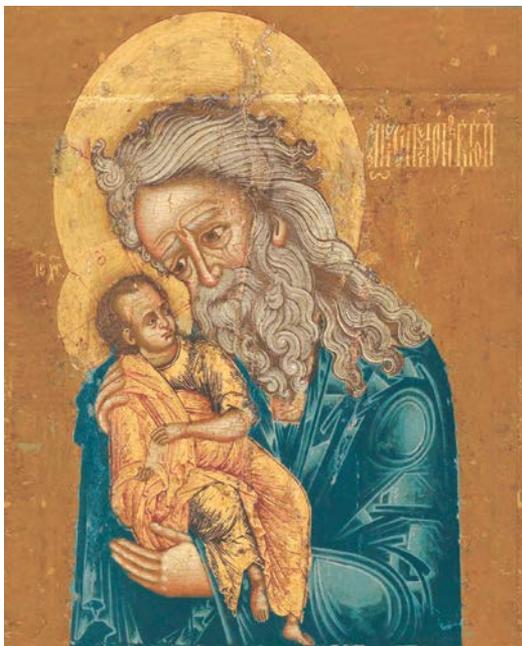
On this fourteenth Sunday of Luke we hear St. Paul’s famous statement that we repeat in every liturgy in the prayer before Holy Communion. This prayer attitude which is expressed so beautifully by St. Paul is “faithful...and worthy of all acceptance.” So we must pay close attention to this in our own spiritual lives.

The first important point is that our Lord came into the world not as a judge but as a Savior. He tells us in the Gospel of John ***“for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. (Joh 12:47 NKJ)*** Our Lord’s first and foremost desire is that every human being “be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.” He will do anything and everything to save us, but he will not force us. We must accept this great gift of salvation by fostering a relationship of intimate familial love- we come to the Father through Him. If we love our Father, we will honor Him. If we love our Father, we will honor our mother, the Holy Theotokos. If we love our Father, we will look for ways to please Him. We will be careful to follow His way of life because we know He would never lead us down the wrong path. We try as much as possible to fulfill our Royal calling, our familial inheritance. And when we make a mistake, we come running home- to His Holy Church- and confess with tears, and resolve, with all of our hearts, never to make the same mistake again. We will always fear disappointing the One who loves us- that we do not trample on His love and the great sacrifice He has made for us. This is what the fear of God is, and this is what Faith is. We can only draw near to Christ if we have this attitude in our prayers and in our lives. Remember words of the Deacon, before Holy Communion; “With the Fear of God, and Faith, and Love, draw ye near.” These three things are inseparably connected to each other and allow us to come near to our Lord.

Most crucial, my beloved is that if Saint Paul calls himself the chief of sinners, we also must recognize and focus on our own shortcomings, and not those of others. Pride is the biggest obstacle to the spiritual life, for if we are proud, our prayers are empty, like

those of the Pharisee. Humility attracts the light of God and Pride obscures it. If we recognize and ask forgiveness for the sins we have committed then two things happen. First, the light of God begins to shine brighter in our souls and we are able to see more and more the dark crevices and difficult to reach places that are covered with dirt and soiled. We can then clean these places so that our Lord can come and visit us and dwell in a clean house. Second, as our house becomes cleaner and cleaner, we begin to love and not to judge everyone else in our lives. It is only because the Lord is in us that we can love and not judge others, for He is the One who came to save the world and not to judge it. Amen.

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



For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.