



ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

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**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
TONE 3 / EOTHINON 1
SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY
CROSS**

GREAT-MARTYR NIKITAS THE GOTH AND THOSE WITH HIM

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.

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

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

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)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands all ye peoples.

**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, 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

Holy oblation is offered for **Florence Elizabeth Ajalat** by her parents **Mark & Kouri, older brother Grayson**, and the Ajalat & Simon Families on the occasion of her **churching today**. May God bless her and grant her many years of health, joy, and blessings always.

Happy birthday to Danny Kastoun, from Mom, Dad, Joseph, and Christian.

Prayers are offered for precious **Florence Elizabeth Ajalat** as she is **churched today** by all of her loving family and friends at St. Simeon.

God bless our **Godson, Danny**, as he celebrates his **birthday** this week. You are loved and adored by so many!!!! Your Godparents, Fr. George and Kh. Janine.

God's blessings are offered for **Daniel Kastoun** for his birthday, offered by **Kristy** and his **St Simeon family**. We love you!

Prayers are offered for **Isabela, Paula, Alison, Jesus A, and Eduardo Javier**, the infants and toddlers at **Casa Cuna San**

Felipe Infant Orphanage. May God protect them, bless them, and bless their caretakers at the orphanage!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for Back-to-Sunday School/Family Picnic after liturgy today **from 11 am to 2pm!** Everyone is invited to attend. Join us for Faith, Food, Fellowship and FUN! This year's picnic, will once again be held at the **Duane R. Harte Park** (26401 Riverrock Way in Valencia).

Sunday School Registration

With the **first day of Sunday School, scheduled for Sunday, September 22nd**, please take a minute to **register your children** for this year's exciting Sunday School Program. This year, we will present a special lesson plan prepared by the Archdiocese, entitled "**Salvation to the Ends of the Earth**". Do not miss out on this exciting learning opportunity!

Join us on Saturdays at 4 p.m. to learn more about the Orthodox Faith:

FOR CATECHUMENS AND INQUIRERS "I BELIEVE"

1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS 4:00 P.M.

FOR EVERYONE "LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH"

2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS 4:00 P.M.

Please submit your oblations to: stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com by 9 p.m. on Wednesday!!

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

Thought for the Week

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

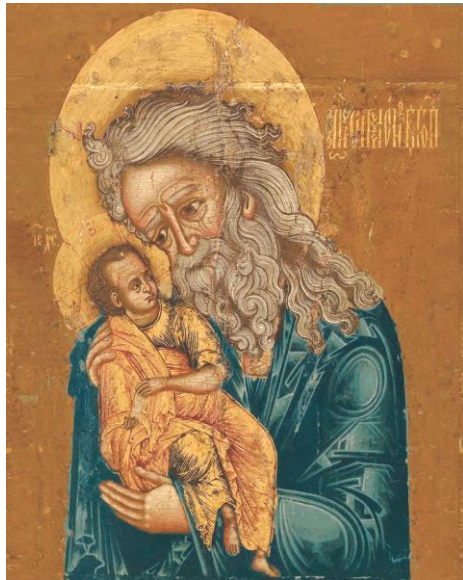
St. Paul on this Sunday after the elevation of the cross tells us what we have been given as Christians and also how we are to live. Each one of us as Christians has been given a marvelous and powerful gift- it is the gift to live life in its fullness, in its completeness. It is a life of freedom; free 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.**