



## **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,  
DECEMBER 01, 2024  
TONE 6 / EOTHINON 1; TWENTY-THIRD  
SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FOURTEENTH  
SUNDAY OF LUKE**

THE HOLY PROPHET NAHUM; VENERABLE PHILARET THE ALMSGIVER  
OF AMNIA;  
MARTYR ANANIAS THE PERSIAN

## **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.

### **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.

### **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 PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE**

*(\*\*The original melody\*\*)*

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-third Sunday after Pentecost)

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

*To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.*

## **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians.**

**(2:4-10)**

Brethren, God, Who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast. For, we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

## **THE GOSPEL**

(For the Fourteenth Sunday of Luke)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.**

**(18:35-43)**

At that time, when 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 Jesus, 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 now celebrate; 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 holy and glorious Prophet Nahum, 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**

Prayers are offered for the infants and toddlers at **Casa Cuna San Felipe**, the largest **Orthodox Orphanage in Mexico**.

	
CHILD'S NAME	AGE
Isabela M	Infant
Alan Campos	Toddler
Jesus A	Toddler
Alejandro (Paquito sister)	Child (5 yr)

**Prayers are offered by Lukas Mcilvaine** for Jacob, Kelly, Exodus, The nuns of Saint Barbara Monastery, Deacon Seraphim, Christopher, David, Dustin, Adam, Justin, Michael, Christian, Mykola, Ksenia, The children of Ukraine, Lebanon, Gaza, Russia, and Israel, Father George, Deacon Steven. Additionally, prayers are offered for all the Orthodox brothers and sisters of St. Simeon and **the departed** Hayden, Louis, and Natalia.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Christmas Program:** For the next few weeks, we will continue having "Christmas Program Rehearsals" each Sunday from **11:30 a.m. to noon**, culminating with our **Performance on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**! Please **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for this special event!

**Bookstore:** From now until Christmas- Buy a board game bundle that includes a free book, a box of Christmas cards, a board game, and more for only \$25. Buy an extra one for a toy drive.

New arrivals are here and more are on the way. We have received **leather soft holy bibles** sold on Amazon for \$80 plus tax. We are having a sale and your price is **\$65** and that includes shipping and tax! They are beautiful and will last for many years. The price will not last

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

**FOR CATECHUMENS AND INQUIRERS "I BELIEVE"**

1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAYS 4:00 P.M.

**FOR EVERYONE "LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH"**

2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAYS 4:00 P.M.

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

**If you would like to host Coffee Hour please contact Tracy Kuncar at 818-402-7994 or [tkuncar@icloud.com](mailto:tkuncar@icloud.com)**

### Epistle Reading Schedule

Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, *John LeMar*

Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, *Delano Howell*

Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, *Tim Ridley*



Dec 15, *Alex Heacock*

Dec 22, *Paulina Petrosyan*

Dec 29, *Natalie, LeMar*

## Thought for the Week

***“(God) raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ...”***

My beloved in Christ Jesus today we read St. Paul telling us that we, as Christians, are living in heaven, even as we live on this earth. This may seem somewhat ethereal or even puzzling to some Christians because they have a misunderstanding of what heaven is. Many think heaven is a place where we hopefully go to when we end this life. It is removed from our present experience and opposed to the world that we live in.

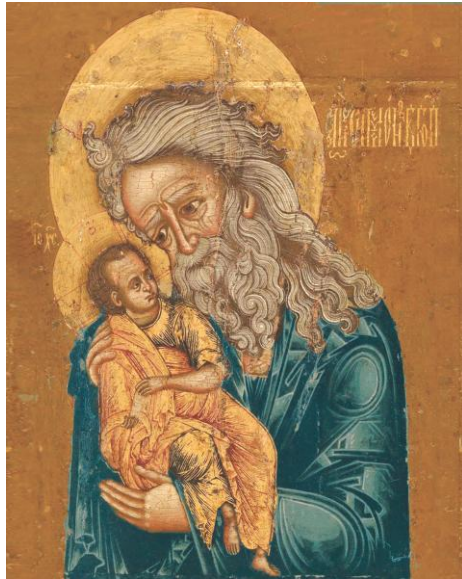
For us as Orthodox Christians, the Kingdom of Heaven exists where the King is. Where Christ is, there is heaven. If Christ is in us, the Kingdom of heaven is within us. We must be aware that this is not simply a metaphor but a reality in us. If we know the Kingdom is within us, how can we not rejoice and be thankful continuously? In the Gospel of John He Himself tells us ***“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”(Joh 14:23 NKJ)*** We must turn inward in our prayer so that we can enter into this magnificent place that the Lord has placed in us. It is a place of love and beauty. If we dwell there with Him we must preserve this place of love and beauty by our actions.

Beloved in Christ Jesus, for us who are in Christ Jesus we enter into this place every week first and foremost in the Divine and Holy Liturgy. In the Holy anaphora the priest prays... ***“and when we had fallen away didst raise us up again, and didst not cease to do***

***all things until thou hadst brought us back to heaven, and hadst endowed us with thy kingdom which is to come.***” In the Holy Liturgy, let us strive to enter into this beautiful place which the Lord has prepared inside of us. Let us taste the heavenly banquet, see the beauty of our Father’s house, and be humbled by the love that exists there. If we strive to experience the Liturgy in this way we will be both in heaven and on earth for the two have come near to each other. Tears will well up deep inside of us and we will never want to leave this place. We will “depart in peace” and carry this peace with us by loving, by forgiving, and by sacrificing for all whom we encounter.

Lastly, my beloved, let us come down from heaven back to this earth. We must recognize that ***“For now we see in a mirror, dimly.”*** None of us can or will fully enter into this Kingdom, for it is still to come. None of us can or do experience the Holy Liturgy in the way we should. It is still obscured, more or less, by our own sins and the sinfulness in which we are immersed. We are usually distracted and unworthy of such a vision. It is our job now to repent- to knock at the door of this beautiful place. Let us knock- by preparing ourselves for the Holy Liturgy and by sincere confession. Let us knock- by asking forgiveness of those who have offended us and by leaving the filthiness of sinful pride behind us. If we knock in this way- be assured that the Lord will open the door, and we will get a glimpse of that place of beauty and light. This glimpse will indeed be enough to sustain us for the rest of our lives here on this earth. We must only remember it. Amen.

**LORD, NOW LETTEST THOU THY  
SERVANT DEPART, IN PEACE,  
ACCORDING TO THY WORD,**



**FOR MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THY  
SALVATION.**